

GBL and BDO have many industrial uses. One significant use of GBL is an intermediate in the manufacture of pyrrolidones, which are widely used industrial chemicals. A second significant use of GBL, because of its strong solvency properties, is in applications such as circuit board cleaning in electronics and high technology industries, and paint stripping. Other applications include the production of herbicides and as a processing aid in the production of pharmaceuticals. BDO is used as an intermediate in common industrial and commercial products such as polyether diols, urethane polymers and polyester polymers. Many of the polyester polymers end up as automotive components such as car bumpers. BDO is also used as a plasticizer, a carrier solvent in printing inks and a cleaning agent.

Unfortunately, GBL and BDO have another property — they can be converted into gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB) and used for illegal purposes. To help prevent misuse, the producers of GBL and BDO formed the GBL/ BDO Panel of the American Chemistry Council. The Panel is committed towards its goal that these chemicals are used only for legitimate applications. The Panel members have instituted procedures in their companies to prevent diversions of these chemicals and encourage customers to do likewise. Panel members diligently work with state regulators and enforcement agents including, the U.S. DEA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, to help investigate abuse of these chemicals. The Panel promotes the education of regulators and industrial users to prevent misuse of the chemical products. The Panel has also created this brochure to help inform persons who have questions about GBL and BDO.



**AMERICAN
CHEMISTRY
COUNCIL®
GBL/BDO Panel**

**GAMMA
BUTYROLACTONE (GBL)
and
1,4 - BUTANEDIOL (BDO)**

**A Guide for
Industrial Users**



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The GBL/BDO Panel

The GBL/BDO Panel is concerned about the safe use of industrial chemicals such as GBL and BDO. As part of their continuing effort to help ensure their products are only used properly, the Panel members support the following practices regarding sales and use of GBL and BDO.

Specifically, Panel members:

1. Promote awareness of applicable U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and local requirements internally and to customers and distributors to assist in maintaining product security.
2. Require written confirmation of intended use from customers to help ensure compliance with Federal, state and local requirements.
3. Report suspicious, unusual product orders or sample requests to appropriate officials.
4. Promote awareness of proper safety and handling procedures for GBL and BDO among distributors and customers.
5. Assist regulators in drafting tough, effective and workable regulations.
6. Monitor pending legislation to enable continued availability and responsible use of GBL and BDO for authorized applications.

Member Companies

BASF Corporation
International Specialty Products
PPG Industries

The proliferation of illicit drugs in the United States is an issue of national importance. The Controlled Substances Act (CSA) provides the DEA with tools to reduce illicit drug production by denying drug traffickers the chemicals they need to produce illicit drugs.

GBL has been designated by the Federal DEA as a List I chemical and is subject to the requirements of the CSA. Although BDO is not subject to Federal regulation, some states have designated it as a controlled substance. The majority of states are regulating GBL and BDO as controlled or listed substances.

FOR GBL ONLY REGISTRATION WITH THE DEA

Who Must Register

Every person (unless specifically exempted) who engages or proposes to engage in any of the following activities is required to register annually with DEA:

- Manufacturing GBL for distribution
- Distributing GBL
- Importing GBL
- Exporting GBL

Please contact the appropriate DEA office for all states in which you engage in any of the above activities.

Note that some states also require registration for BDO and GBL.

Applying for Registration

An application for Federal registration (DEA Form 510), and information regarding current fees and renewal of registration may be obtained by contacting your nearest DEA office or by writing to:

U.S. Department of Justice
DEA, Chemical Registration/ODIA
P.O. Box 2427
Arlington, VA 22202-2427

The DEA recently published the *Chemical Handler's Manual* to assist registrants in understanding the provisions of the Chemical Diversion and Trafficking Act of 1988, the Domestic Chemical Diversion Act of 1993, the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996, and their implementing regulations. These Acts amended the CSA. The manual will help answer questions you may have concerning your responsibilities under these Acts and provide you with guidance in complying with their regulations.

For a copy of the *Chemical Handler's Manual* see website:

<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubs/manuals/chem/index.html>

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