

RETAILER REFERENCE

New Laws Regulating Products Containing Ephedrine, Pseudoephedrine and Phenylpropanolamine

New law passed by the 2006 Vermont Legislature (Act 164 Relating to Precursor Drugs of Methamphetamine 2006, 18 V.S.A. § 4234b) and the federal law (The Combat Methamphetamine Act of 2005), regulate the purchase of products containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine. These include over-the-counter cold medicines, weight loss and energy enhancing products.

The following Federal requirements took effect April 2006:

- A retail establishment can only knowingly sell up to 3.6 grams of the product within a 24-hour period to a single customer. See tables for examples of amounts.
- Within a 30-day period, a retail establishment can only knowingly sell up to 9 grams to a single customer. Based on the average adult dosage, this would be approximately 300 tablets/geltabs.

The following requirements begin September 30, 2006:

- Any product containing pseudoephedrine, ephedrine and phenylpropanolamine must be placed in a locked display case or placed behind-the-counter.
- Purchasers must show valid state or federal ID and sign a record of purchase in a logbook.

If you suspect that someone is buying more than the legal limit, ask them why they need more of the product and refuse the sale. You may need to refer the customer to their doctor for a prescription if they need more than the limit. If you suspect someone is purchasing the product for illegal use, contact your local police or State Police barracks.

Examples of Approximate Daily & Monthly Pseudoephedrine (PSE) Limits

Description/PSE Quantity	Typical Dosage	Typical Package Size	Daily 3.6 gram Limit	Monthly 9 gram Limit
Infant 4-6 hours/15 mg	1.6 ml liquid	.5 fl oz (15 ml) .14 g PSE per bottle	25 bottles	64 bottles
	2.5 ml liquid	1 fl oz (30 ml) .18 g PSE per bottle	20 bottles	50 bottles
Child 4-6 hours/30 mg	10 ml liquid	4 fl oz (118 ml) .354 g PSE per bottle	10 bottles	25 bottles
	two 15 mg tablets	18 tablets .27 g PSE per box	13 boxes	33 boxes
Adult 4-6 hours/60 mg	10 ml liquid	4 fl oz (118 ml) .708 g PSE per bottle	5 bottles	12 bottles
	two 30 mg tablets	24 tablets .720 g PSE per box	5 boxes	12 boxes
Adult 12 hours/120 mg	Single tablet	10 tablets 1.2 g PSE per box	3 boxes	7 boxes
		20 tablets 2.4 g PSE	1 box	3 boxes
Adult 24 hours/240 mg	Single tablet	5 tablets 1.2 g PSE per box	3 boxes	7 boxes
		10 tablets 2.4 g PSE per box	1 box	3 boxes

An approximation of typical pseudoephedrine purchases in retail stores and pharmacies: National Grocers Association

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Examples of Daily Limits for Products Containing Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine

TABLETS: Examples of Daily Ephedrine (HCl) and Pseudoephedrine (PSE) Limits

Products Containing	Number of Tablets within Daily Sales Limit
25 mg Ephedrine HCl	175
25 mg Ephedrine Sulfate	186
30 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl	146
60 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl	73
120 mg Pseudoephedrine HCl	36
30 mg Pseudoephedrine Sulfate	155
60 mg Pseudoephedrine Sulfate	77
120 Pseudoephedrine Sulfate	38

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration

MILLILITERS(ml): Examples of Daily Ephedrine (HCl) and Pseudoephedrine (PSE) Limits

Products Containing	Number of Milliliters within Daily Sales Limit (4 oz = 120 ml)
6.25 mg/5 ml Ephedrine HCl	3515 ml
15 mg/1.6 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	468 ml
7.5 mg/5 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	2929 ml
15 mg/5 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	1464 ml
15 mg/2.5 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	732 ml
30 mg/5 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	732 ml
30 mg/2.5 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	366
60 mg/5 ml Pseudoephedrine HCl	366

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration

What is Methamphetamine?

Methamphetamine is a dangerous and illegal drug that is highly addictive. The drug affects the central nervous system and changes the user's brain chemistry. For more information about methamphetamine go to <http://healthvermont.gov> or dial 2-1-1 to reach Vermont 2-1-1, a statewide information and referral system (when calling from some cell phones you may need to dial toll-free 1-866-652-4636).

To view a copy of the Vermont law, Act 164 Relating to Precursor Drugs of Methamphetamine 2006, 18 V.S.A. § 4234b – go to <http://healthvermont.gov>.

