

US Federal Classification Schedule

The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (USDEA) regulates all drugs and classifies them according to the Controlled Substance Act (Title 21 of the US Code) which places a drug in one of five categories based upon a substance's medical use, potential for abuse, and safety or dependence liability.

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) – *the main psychoactive compound in cannabis* – is a Schedule I drug.

CBD (cannabidiol) is a Schedule V drug.

Schedule	Description	Examples
I	drugs, substances, or chemicals believed to have no currently accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse.	heroin, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), marijuana (THC), 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), methaqualone, and peyote
II	drugs, substances, or chemicals believed to have a high potential for abuse, with use potentially leading to severe psychological or physical dependence.	Combination products with less than 15 milligrams of hydrocodone per dosage unit (Vicodin), cocaine, methamphetamine, methadone, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), meperidine (Demerol), oxycodone (OxyContin), fentanyl, Dexedrine, Adderall, and Ritalin, Nabilone
III	drugs, substances, or chemicals believed to have a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence.	Products containing less than 90 milligrams of codeine per dosage unit (Tylenol with codeine), ketamine, anabolic steroids, testosterone, Marinol
IV	drugs, substances, or chemicals believed to have a low potential for abuse and low risk of dependence.	Xanax, Soma, Darvon, Darvocet, Valium, Ativan, Talwin, Ambien, Tramadol
V	drugs, substances, or chemicals believed to have a lower potential for abuse than Schedule IV and consist of preparations containing limited quantities of certain narcotics. Schedule V drugs are generally used for antidiarrheal, antitussive, and analgesic purposes.	cough preparations with less than 200 milligrams of codeine or per 100 milliliters (Robitussin AC), Lomotil, Motofen, Lyrica, Parepectolin, Epidiolex, Cannabidiol (CBD)

<https://www.dea.gov/drug-information/csa>

In determining into which schedule a drug or other substance should be placed certain factors are required to be considered and include the following:

- * Its actual or relative potential for abuse
- * Scientific evidence of its pharmacological effect, if known.
- * The state of current scientific knowledge regarding the drug or other substance.
- * Its history and current pattern of abuse.
- * The scope, duration, and significance of abuse.
- * What, if any, risk there is to the public health.
- * Its psychic or physiological dependence liability.
- * Whether the substance is an immediate precursor of a substance already controlled under this subchapter.