



Briefing note: PMMA detected in ecstasy tablets in Europe

Risk identified:	PMMA has been detected in several ecstasy tablets in European countries since August 2026. PMMA can cause severe and potentially fatal toxicity.
Date of briefing:	24 September 2026

Key points

Since July 2026, drug-checking services in several European countries, including the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Spain and Switzerland, have reported PMMA (para-methoxymethamphetamine) in tablets sold as ecstasy. PMMA can cause severe and potentially fatal toxicity.

There is currently no evidence from the available data that these tablets are circulating in the UK, however, ecstasy tablets in the UK market are typically sourced from EU countries. This briefing is intended to support early awareness and reporting of suspected detections or harms.

Recent analysis in Europe has identified PMMA in tablets sold as ecstasy. Reported logos stamped on the tablets include:

- Trump
- Red Bull
- Club 555
- Abarth

(images are available in the links at the bottom of this briefing)

The recent European alerts state that tested tablets contained varying amounts of PMMA, with some containing more than 100 mg. PMMA has a narrow margin between doses producing effects people who use it are looking for and causing severe toxicity, but risk may vary between individuals.

Tablet colour and logo should only be used as supporting information, as tablets with the same appearance may contain different substances and other logos may also contain PMMA.

OHID is not currently aware of any recently reported fatal or non-fatal overdoses linked specifically to these tablets or involving PMMA.

What is PMMA?

PMMA (para-methoxymethamphetamine) is a synthetic stimulant related to MDMA. It can take longer to take effect than expected and may feel weaker than expected compared to MDMA. Someone may take more as a result, increasing the risk of overdose and toxicity.

PMMA toxicity can cause a dangerously high body temperature, increased heart rate, agitation, confusion, muscle rigidity, seizures, loss of consciousness and organ failure. The risk may increase when higher doses are taken, particularly alongside physical activity, in hot environments such as nightclubs or with other drugs.

People may unknowingly take PMMA in tablets sold as ecstasy, as the contents cannot be identified by appearance.

Current situation in the UK

Based on information available to OHID as of 24 September 2026, there is no evidence that PMMA has recently been detected in tablets sold as ecstasy in the UK. Overseas detections in Europe do not necessarily mean that the same tablets are circulating in the UK, but ecstasy tablets in the UK market are usually sourced from EU countries.

Action for network members

This briefing is for professional awareness. Network members may wish to share this briefing with relevant local partners, including drug and alcohol treatment services, harm reduction and needle exchange services, night-time economy partners, emergency departments and other health professionals in your Local Drug Information System (LDIS) network. It does not confirm that PMMA-containing tablets are currently circulating in the UK.

Local public awareness resources could be developed to raise awareness of the need to be cautious, and an escalated response and alert may be required if there is confirmation PMMA is detected in ecstasy tablets in the UK. OHID is posting a news item on the Frank website to raise awareness and give basic harm reduction advice.

If you receive any enquiries or reports of harms linked to PMMA, MDMA or ecstasy please inform your regional OHID lead and contact drug.alerts@dhsc.gov.uk. Where available, please include the date of incident, location, tablet description, photographs, analytical results and reported harms.

Harm reduction advice

People should be advised not to take tablets suspected of containing PMMA because of the risk of severe and potentially fatal toxicity.

Harm reduction advice could include:

- The only way to avoid the risks from an unknown tablet is not to take it.
- A tablet's colour, shape or logo does not reliably indicate its contents or strength.

- If someone chooses to use a tablet sold as ecstasy, they should avoid taking more because its effects appear delayed or weaker than expected.
- Avoid mixing tablets sold as ecstasy with alcohol, stimulants, antidepressants or other drugs, as combinations may increase risk of overdose.
- People should not use alone and should tell others what they have taken.
- Call 999 immediately if someone develops severe overheating, confusion, agitation, muscle rigidity, seizures, chest pain, difficulty breathing, collapses or becomes unconscious.

Source and links to European alerts

- [Netherlands Alert](#)
- [Austrian Alert](#)
- [German Alert](#) (there have been no detections in Germany, but harm reduction services have shared an alert as a pre-caution)