

In section (2) the following words should be deleted :

" in such a way that the preparation has no, or a negligible, risk of abuse, and in such a way that the drug cannot be recovered by readily applicable means in a yield which would constitute a risk to public health. "

In section (3) the words " Solid dose " should be deleted:

4. Terminology in Regard to Drug Abuse

" Drug dependence " to replace the terms " drug addiction " and " drug habituation "

The WHO Expert Committee on Addiction-Producing Drugs in 1952¹ attempted to formulate a definition of addiction applicable to drugs under international control, which it later (1957)² revised. The Expert Committee sought also to differentiate addiction from habituation and wrote a definition of the latter which, however, failed in practice to make a clear distinction. The definition of addiction gained some acceptance, but confusion in the use of the terms addiction and habituation and misuse of the former continued. Further, the list of drugs abused increased in number and diversity. These difficulties have become increasingly apparent and various attempts have been made to find a term that could be applied to drug abuse generally. The component in common appears to be dependence, whether psychic or physical or both. Hence, use of the term " drug dependence ", with a modifying phrase linking it to a particular drug type in order to differentiate one class of drugs from another, has been given most careful consideration.

" Drug dependence " is defined as a state arising from repeated administration of a drug on a periodic or continuous basis. Its characteristics will vary with the agent involved and this must be made clear by designating the particular type of drug dependence in each specific case—for example, drug dependence of morphine type, of cocaine type, of cannabis type, of barbiturate type, of amphetamine type, etc. (See Annex 1 for descriptions of specific types of drug dependence.)

The Expert Committee recommends substitution of the term " drug dependence " for the terms " drug addiction " and " drug habituation ".

It must be emphasized that drug dependence is a general term selected for its applicability to all types of drug abuse and carries no connotation of the degree of risk to public health or need for a particular type of drug control. The agents controlled internationally continue to be those that are morphine-like, cocaine-like, and cannabis-like, however produced, the use of which results in drug dependence of morphine type, drug dependence

¹ *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1952, 57, 9 (section 6.1).

² *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.*, 1957, 116, 9 (section 8).