Food and Drug Administration, HHS

Food and Drugs received reports of the abuse of this drug by those who do not require it for medical purposes. Additionally, comment included a great deal of concern expressed by individual physicians, medical associations, pharmaceutical associations, manufacturers, and State and local health authorities. Based on the information available, it is the opinion of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, concurred in by the Food and Drug Administration Medical Advisory Board, that amyl nitrite inhalant is a drug with a potentiality for harmful effect and that it should be removed from over-the-counter status and restricted to sale on the prescription of a practitioner licensed by law to administer such drug.

(b) Therefore, amyl nitrite inhalant will be regarded as misbranded unless the labeling on or within the package from which the drug is to be dispensed bears adequate information for its safe and effective use by physicians, in accordance with §201.100(c) of this chapter, and its label bears the statement “Rx only.”

(c) Regulatory proceedings may be initiated with regard to the interstate shipment of amyl nitrite inhalant that is labeled, advertised, or dispensed contrary to this statement of policy if such act occurs after July 1, 1969.

§ 250.101 Amphetamine and methamphetamine inhalers regarded as prescription drugs.

(a)(1) The Food and Drug Administration finds that the following “coronary vasodilators” are extensively regarded by physicians as safe and useful as employed under medical supervision for the management of angina pectoris in some patients:

Amyl nitrite.
Erythrityl tetranitrate.
Mannitol hexanitrate.
Nitroglycerin.
Potassium nitrite.
Sodium nitrite.

(2) Additionally, new-drug applications have been approved for products containing:

Inositol hexanitrate.
Isosorbide dinitrate.
Octyl nitrite.
Pentaerythritol tetranitrate.
Triethanolamine trinitrate biphosphate (trolnitrate phosphate).

(b) The Food and Drug Administration also finds that there is neither substantial evidence of effectiveness nor a general recognition by qualified experts that such drugs are effective for any of the other purposes for which some such drugs are promoted to the medical profession in labeling and advertising. In particular, neither clinical investigations nor clinical experience justify any representations that such drugs are effective in the management of hypertension; in the management of coronary insufficiency or coronary artery disease, except for their sale because of their potentiality for harm to the user.

§ 250.102 Drug preparations intended for human use containing certain “coronary vasodilators”.

(a)(1) The Food and Drug Administration finds that the following “coronary vasodilators” are extensively regarded by physicians as safe and useful as employed under medical supervision for the management of angina pectoris in some patients:

Amyl nitrite.
Erythrityl tetranitrate.
Mannitol hexanitrate.
Nitroglycerin.
Potassium nitrite.
Sodium nitrite.

(2) Additionally, new-drug applications have been approved for products containing:

Inositol hexanitrate.
Isosorbide dinitrate.
Octyl nitrite.
Pentaerythritol tetranitrate.
Triethanolamine trinitrate biphosphate (trolnitrate phosphate).