



SAFETY BULLETIN

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Be Aware of Synthetic Cannabinoids!



As first reported to you in the April 10, 2010 Idealease Safety Bulletin the use of synthetic marijuana sold under the names of K2 and Spice and other names is available in the US and provides the user the same effect as marijuana. The Drug Enforcement Administration DEA has now announced that synthetic marijuana is now a controlled substance making it illegal to use by a commercial motor vehicle driver.

In a Federal Register entry published Jan. 10, 2014 the DEA said the "synthetic cannabinoids" are "an imminent hazard to the public

May 8 , 2015

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Question of the Week

My driver has gone through a roadside inspection, how long do I have to keep this documentation on file?

Answer:

Copies of all roadside inspections are to be kept by the motor carrier for 12 months. The driver is required to turn in the inspection to the motor carrier within 24 hours. If they are not going to return to the terminal they are to mail in the inspection. If the inspection resulted in violations they are to be corrected or repaired and the inspection form is to be signed and certified that the repairs were

safety," and there are no medical uses for the synthetic strains. Synthetic marijuana, according to the DEA's Federal Register entry, is "functionally similar" to the active ingredient in natural marijuana - THC. The cannabinoids are not organic, though, and are created in a laboratory. Moreover, the DEA says, "the vast majority of cannabinoids are manufactured in Asia by individuals who are not bound by any manufacturing requirements or quality control standards."

The FMCSA prohibits a driver from engaging in a safety-sensitive function when the driver uses "any controlled substance" except under the supervision of a licensed medical practitioner. [49 CFR 382.213\(a\)](#).

DOT drug tests, however, do not test for synthetic marijuana, and many, if not most, non-DOT drug testing regimens will not detect synthetics. It is not known at this point if the FMCSA intends to amend its drug test to include these substances.

But because synthetic marijuana is now a controlled substance, motor carriers must prohibit its use by drivers even if it not tested for at the moment. Company policy should prohibit the possession or use of synthetic marijuana. If a driver involved in a crash is proven to have used synthetic marijuana, that fact may be considered evidence of negligence by both the driver and the carrier.

The drug is generally smoked, the DEA says (information it says it obtained from Internet message boards and from law enforcement officers). According to the DEA, it is sold under hundreds of brand names, some of which are: Spice, K2, Blaze, Red X Dawn, Paradise, Demon, Black Magic, Spike, Mr. Nice Guy, Ninja, Zohai, Dream, Genie, Scene, Smoke, Skunk, Serenity, Yucatan, Fire, Crazy Clown, Black Mamba, Crazy Monkey, Dead Man Walking, Funky Monkey, Sexy Monkey, SinX, TenX, Twilight and 3X.

More information about Synthetic Marijuana:

<http://www.drugs.com/illicit/synthetic-marijuana.html>

News releases regarding overdoses of Synthetic Marijuana in the last month:

Tainted Synthetic Marijuana Sickens Users in Connecticut

Tue, 5 May 2015

... investigating a batch of synthetic marijuana that sickened about commonly known as " K2 " or " Spice ." "We've seen the source of the synthetic marijuana , which police believe drug, but because synthetic marijuana is not detectable ... [READ MORE](#).

Dozens in Mississippi Treated for 'Spice' Overdose Symptoms

Tue, 7 Apr 2015

... symptoms involving the synthetic drug " spice ," health officials announced Monday the Easter weekend for symptoms of " spice " overdose , a potent synthetic drug to recreate the high that comes with marijuana . The synthetic drug is suspected as enough to put someone in a coma." " Spice " is a catch-all name for a wide variety to what a person feels after smoking marijuana . Symptoms of the synthetic drug include ... [READ MORE](#).

'Spice' Overdoses Send More Than 300 to ER in 2 Weeks

completed and sent back to the state of inspection within 15 days.

Best Practice Guidelines for Roadside Inspections:

Train drivers how to complete good quality pre-trip inspection to reduce possibility of violations.

Reviews CSA monthly at www.ai.fmcsa.dot.gov and enter your DOT number or name. Review the vehicle and driver basics with the associated inspections and cross reference the inspections you have on file with the inspections turned in by your drivers. Question drivers who did not submit inspection reports. Also review the History tab directly below the crash basic to determine if the number of inspections you are having is on the rise or decline.

Review vehicle inspections and violations with your maintenance provider to reduce violations.

Maintain copies, along with any repair orders attached if there were violations, in tractor and trailer file.

Use the roadside inspection information, such as date, time and locations to cross reference with the drivers hours of service documentation for falsification violations.

Thu, 16 Apr 2015

... Alabama announced. Spice , which refers to several brands of synthetic marijuana sold illegally patients had used spice , the health department associated with synthetic marijuana use ," Alabama chemical found in cannabis . Although it's Black Mamba, K2 and Spice , she ... [READ MORE](#).

FMCSA Proposes Changes to the Diabetes Standard

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published a proposed rule on May 4, 2015, to permit drivers with stable, well-controlled insulin-treated diabetes mellitus (ITDM) to be qualified to operate commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) in interstate commerce.

Currently, drivers with ITDM are prohibited from driving CMVs in interstate commerce unless they obtain an exemption from FMCSA. The notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) would enable individuals with ITDM to obtain a Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC), from a medical examiner (ME) at least annually in order to operate in interstate commerce if the treating clinician (TC) who is the healthcare professional responsible for prescribing insulin for the driver's diabetes, provides documentation to the ME that the condition is stable and well-controlled.

Turn Around, Don't Drown



With the recent storms and flooding that has occurred this spring, drivers of any type of vehicle need to be aware of the fact that road conditions can change rapidly with flash floods. Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Over half of all flood related deaths each year occur with victims inside vehicles. Many of the deaths occur in vehicles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around the barriers that warn you the road is flooded. Even when operating a large commercial motor vehicle you can be swept away by the strong force of the waters current. I remember vividly watching a number of years ago a cement mixer which had been caught in a storm water

Train drivers how to successfully pass a roadside inspections and how to conduct themselves.

Did You Know?

Level One CVSA roadside inspections without violations can, by regulation, be submitted for the DOT Annual Inspection.

Now is the Time for all Drivers to Tune Up their Pre- and Post-Trip Inspection Skills.

Roadcheck 2015 will take place on June 2-4, 2015

Starting June 2, approximately 10,000 specially-trained and certified officers will blanket North America's roadways to prevent truck and bus crashes and save lives. For the past 28 years, the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) annual Roadcheck event dispatches federal, state, provincial and local inspectors to conduct North American Standard Inspections around the clock for 72 hours from June 2-4. These inspections involve a comprehensive 37-step procedure which includes items related to vehicle, driver and cargo safety. Inspectors also hand out educational materials to drivers on various aspects of commercial vehicle, driver and hazardous materials safety.

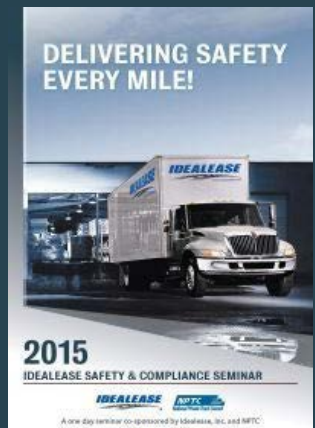
[International Roadcheck Checklist for Drivers](#)

canal in Los Angeles during a flash flood be swept down the canal as if it were a toy boat. To check on weather conditions and flooding, go the National Weather Service website at: www.srh.weather.gov.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road, Turn Around Don't Drown. You will not know the depth of the water nor will you know the condition of the road under the water.

- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Turn Around. Don't Drown!
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. Turn Around Don't Drown If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Do park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Avoid low water crossings.
- Use alternate routes to avoid flood prone areas.
- Leave your vehicle immediately if it stalls in flood waters.
- Move to higher ground if you can do so safely.
- Most cars and light trucks will begin to float in as little as 1 to 2 feet of water.

Register Now for the 2015 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminars!



Idealease, its members and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2015. The one day seminars this year will focus on basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. The seminars and will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals.

To register for an upcoming seminar in 2015 [CLICK HERE](#).

2015 Idealease Safety Seminar Schedule:

May 12	Tampa, FL
May 12	Detroit, MI
May 14	Minneapolis, MN
May 20	Altoona, IA
June 25	Santa Rosa, CA
October 13	Toledo, OH
October 14	Grand Rapids, MI

October 20 Las Vegas, NV
October 22 San Martin, CA

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