

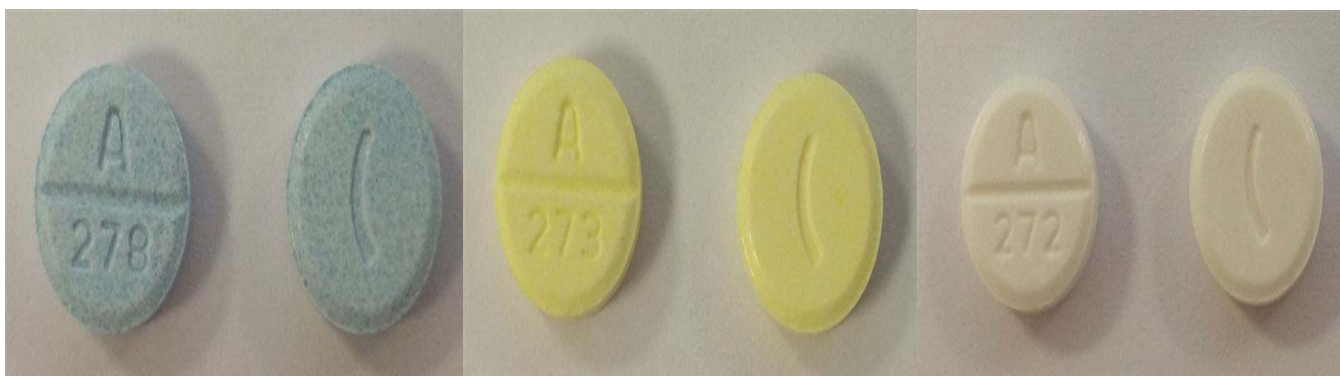


**POLICE
SCOTLAND**
Keeping people safe

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Crescent diazepam tablet logos

The pictures below are of legitimate pharmaceutically produced blue 10 mg, yellow 5 mg and white 2 mg Crescent diazepam tablets. They are printed with the numbers 278, 273 and 272 respectively. The number markings are company identifiers for each diazepam tablet type.



White MA D10 logo tablets being sold as diazepam

The photo below is of a white tablet stamped with the MA and D10 logo which is currently in circulation and commonly being sold as diazepam. Laboratory analysis has identified the tablets contain etizolam. The logo has previously been encountered on blue 10mg diazepam tablets.



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Ecstasy tablet containing a high dose of MDMA (220mg)

In general terms there are higher purity ecstasy tablets in circulation.

Ecstasy tablets recovered recently in the Glasgow area.



The following information highlights some of the issues, Police advice is to avoid drug use and there is no accurate method of identifying any substance or its strength without proper forensic analysis.

It is important that ecstasy users are aware of the dangers involved. Professional advice is available from established drug services.

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Information regarding the strength of the 'Tomorrowland' logo tablet shown in the picture below was circulated on the Internet in October 2016. There are confirmed reports of similar tablets circulating at music festivals in England this year. Forensic analysis reports the tablets may contain large doses (220 mg) of MDMA. There is never any guarantee of tablet content regardless of the logo, shape or colour. This particular tablet reflects the current trend in the ecstasy market of well made tablets in various designs and logos containing a much higher than normal dose of the drug. Higher MDMA content will increase the risks associated with ecstasy use and the consumption of multiple tablets will place a user in serious danger.

'Tomorrowland' logo ecstasy tablet



European alert regarding superman logo ecstasy tablets

The following alert has been issued by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) regarding ecstasy tablets containing a high concentration of para-methoxy-methamphetamine (PMMA) which were collected in the Netherlands in October 2016 and in Spain in August 2016.

The tablets were pink, with a Superman logo on both sides, similar to tablets which have been previously associated with deaths in Europe.

Tablets with a 'Superman' logo and containing a high concentration of PMMA have been recently detected in Europe, in Spain (August 2016) and the Netherlands (October 2016).

The tablet found in the Netherlands looks similar to a sample analysed in August 2016 by Energy Control Drug Checking Services in Spain, which was also sold as 'ecstasy' and found to contain

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PMMA. Both tablets are believed to have been purchased with the intention of being used at electronic music festivals.

It is important to note that similar pink 'Superman' tablets containing PMMA and amphetamine were reported by the EU EWS in 2014 and 2015 and were associated with deaths in Poland, Norway, Belgium, Sweden and United Kingdom.

What are the dangers associated with PMMA which is contained in the 'Superman' tablets?

PMMA is a psychoactive substance with a narrow margin between the behaviourally active dose and the lethal dose and therefore it has a high risk for acute toxicity. The main acute toxicity effect of PMMA is hyperthermia, whereby the temperature of the body is raised to potentially fatal levels. Heart, liver, and kidney failure have been associated with PMMA toxicity.

Users may not be aware that they are taking PMMA, as these tablets are sold as 'ecstasy' (which typically is expected to contain MDMA). The poor MDMA-like effects of PMMA may be perceived by those taking it as a weakness or failure of the tablet taken in the belief that it is 'ecstasy'. This may lead to the consumption of more pills and subsequent overdose.

People who take more than one tablet over a short time period are at the greatest risk of both acute and long-term health risks associated with this substance.

The picture below depicts the 'Superman' logo design, it's not an image of one of the tablets referred to in the above EMCDDA alert.



Heroin (diamorphine)

One of the most common street deals of heroin is the 'tenner' (£10) bag. The average weight of a 'tenner bag' in Scotland is commonly 100mg - 200mg. In the West Area there has been a slight increase in bag weights which are now closer to 200mg. There are also reports of £15 bags of heroin available on the illicit market. There is mixed reporting regarding heroin availability and quality.

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The average 'street level' purity of heroin in Scotland is normally within a range of 10% - 25%. Routine samples are currently being analysed to identify any changes. There are geographical influences on both quality and weight. In the north of Scotland 'street level' bags tend to be slightly smaller.

Steroid tablets recovered in prison

The image below is of a small number of steroid tablets recovered in a Scottish prison. They are pro-viron tablets containing Mesterolone a Class 'C' controlled drug. Supply of this drug is a criminal offence.



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