

bp GoM HSE&C Notice

September 7, 2022

Prohibited Drug / Chemical of Concern - Kratom bp GoM Offshore Drugs & Alcohol (Substance Abuse) Policy



The use, selling, purchasing, transferring, concealment, manufacturing, transportation, possession, or being under the influence of, prohibited substances while on a bp platform, MODU, or vessel is prohibited.

- Kratom has been identified as an emerging risk and drug / chemical of concern at the BP Heliport.
- Workers have either attempted to transport and/or ship Kratom offshore, resulting in these items being identified as contraband.
- Any otherwise legal but illicitly-used substances, such as prescription drugs obtained or used without proper medical authorization (this would include prescription drugs prescribed to someone other than the employee e.g., friends and family members), over-the-counter drugs (including Dextromethorphan), **botanicals, plants, herbal supplements with mind-altering properties** (e.g., **Kratom**, Salvia, Kava, Khat, Mescaline, Ayahuasca, Betel Nut), synthetic forms of illegal substances (e.g., synthetic amphetamine-like substances, synthetic fentanyl analogs, testosterone-like substances, etc.) and other substances not being used for their intended purposes or not for human consumption are prohibited.
- The FDA has not approved Kratom for any medical use. In addition, DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern

Please visit [Drug Fact Sheet: Kratom \(dea.gov\)](#) for more information.



Questions, contact your Offshore Medic, Nurse Christina Hegman, christina.hegman@bp.com, Health Lead, Valerie Murray, valerie.murray@bp.com



Kratom

WHAT IS KRATOM?

Kratom is a tropical tree native to Southeast Asia. Consumption of its leaves produces both stimulant effects (in low doses) and sedative effects (in high doses), and can lead to psychotic symptoms, and psychological and physiological dependence. Kratom leaves contain two major psychoactive ingredients (mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine). These leaves are crushed and then smoked, brewed with tea, or placed into gel capsules. Kratom has a long history of use in Southeast Asia, where it is commonly known as thang, kakuam, thom, ketum, and biak. In the U.S., the abuse of kratom has increased markedly in recent years.

How is it abused?

Mostly abused by oral ingestion in the form of a tablet, capsule, or extract. Kratom leaves may also be dried or powdered and ingested as a tea, or the kratom leaf may be chewed.

What are the effects?

At low doses, kratom produces stimulant effects with users reporting increased alertness, physical energy, and talkativeness. At high doses, users experience sedative effects. Kratom consumption can lead to addiction.

Several cases of psychosis resulting from use of kratom have been reported, where individuals addicted to kratom exhibited psychotic symptoms, including hallucinations, delusion, and confusion.

What does it do to the body?

Kratom's effects on the body include nausea, itching, sweating, dry mouth, constipation, increased urination, tachycardia, vomiting, drowsiness, and loss of appetite. Users of kratom have also experienced anorexia, weight loss, insomnia, hepatotoxicity, seizure, and hallucinations.

What is its legal status?

Kratom is not controlled under the Controlled Substances Act; however, there may be some state regulations or prohibitions against the possession and use of kratom. The FDA has not approved Kratom for any medical use. In addition, DEA has listed kratom as a Drug and Chemical of Concern.



Kratom tree



Leaf of kratom tree



Kratom capsules

