



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

Office of the Administrator

Springfield, VA 22152

Kratom Danger Awareness

Dear Kratom Danger Awareness:

This is in response to your September 8, 2025, letter petitioning the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to initiate rulemaking proceedings pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 811(a) to amend 21 CFR 1308.11 to place *Mitragyna speciosa* and all its naturally occurring, synthetic, and semi-synthetic alkaloids into schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.¹ In the petition, you specifically used the following language parallel to the scheduling of marijuana: “*Mitragyna speciosa* (commonly known as kratom), including its leaves, stems, roots, bark, flowers, seeds, and any other part of the plant, whether growing or not; and any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, extract, preparation, or conversion thereof, whether naturally occurring or synthetic; including but not limited to the alkaloids mitragynine, 7-hydroxymitragynine, mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, speciogynine, paynantheine, corynantheidine, and speciociliantine; regardless of concentration, formulation, or intended use.” Pet. at 3.

Because the petition substantially complies with the procedural requirements of 21 CFR 1308.43(b), and the grounds upon which the petition relies can be readily understood, DEA accepts the petition for filing under 21 CFR 1308.43(c). In regard to *Mitragyna speciosa*, mitragynine, and 7-hydroxymitragynine specifically, DEA will begin the process of gathering the necessary data under 21 U.S.C. 811(b). As DEA gathers the necessary data, if the petitioner obtains additional information regarding *Mitragyna speciosa*, mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine, please provide such supporting data to DPE@dea.gov.

With respect to the other alkaloids present in *Mitragyna speciosa*, however, the petition fails to provide any relevant medical or scientific evidence to support the request for all other naturally occurring, synthetic, and semi-synthetic alkaloids found in *Mitragyna speciosa*. For example, no data was provided for mitragynine pseudoindoxyl, speciogynine, paynantheine, corynantheidine, and speciociliantine. Upon review, DEA has determined that the data provided to support the scheduling of these alkaloids is insufficient to justify the initiation of proceedings at this time. Therefore, under 21 CFR 1308.43(c), the petitioner’s request to initiate proceedings for these other alkaloids is denied. However, DEA invites the petitioner to resubmit the petition to schedule those other alkaloids present in *Mitragyna speciosa* and

¹ A drug or other substance is included in schedule I if it has “a high potential for abuse,” “no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States,” and “a lack of accepted safety for use . . . under medical supervision.” 21 U.S.C. 812(b)(1)(A)-(C).

include data which specifically indicates the pharmacological profile, abuse potential, and the threat to public safety for these substances.

If you should have further questions relating to your petition, please feel free to contact the Diversion Control Division's Drug and Chemical Evaluation Section at (571) 362-3249 or DPE@dea.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrance Cole", written over a horizontal line.

Terrance Cole,
Administrator

OCT 29 2025

1,690 KRATOM POISON CONTROL REPORTS IN FIRST 7 MONTHS OF 2025

The first seven months of 2025 exceeded the entire 2024 annual total (1,645 reports).

National Poison Data System (NPDS) – Official U.S. Exposure Data

Data Source: America's Poison Centers (NPDS)

Poison Help (24/7): 1-800-222-1222

Year	Total Cases	Treated in Healthcare Facility	Serious Outcomes*	Deaths
2019	1,357	713	356	3
2020	1,262	614	330	5
2021	1,524	712	376	4
2022	1,278	586	306	3
2023	1,489	671	380	5
2024	1,645	803	415	7

*Serious Outcomes = Moderate + Major + Fatal (NPDS clinical definitions).

Most reported kratom exposures involve adults age 20 and older. Age restrictions may address youth access, but the majority of documented medical outcomes involve adults. (NPDS Annual Reports, 2019–2024)

803 REQUIRED HOSPITAL TREATMENT IN 2024

415 SERIOUS MEDICAL OUTCOMES IN 2024

Policy Accountability Questions for S1282

- If regulation is sufficient, what measurable reduction in poison control reports should Idaho expect?
- What evidence shows that KCPA-style laws reduce national exposure totals?
- If exposure reports remain elevated year after year, how will Idaho define regulatory success?
- What corrective mechanism exists if exposure numbers continue to rise?

Sources:

- America's Poison Centers. National Poison Data System Annual Reports (2019–2024).
- America's Poison Centers. 2025 mid-year kratom exposure advisory (Jan 1 – July 31, 2025).
- Post S. et al. Clinical Toxicology. 2019 (NPDS 2011–2017 analysis).