



**SPECIALISED  
SECURITY SERVICES  
MIKE BOLHUIS**



## **ANTI-DRUG PROJECT: Ecstasy and Liquid Ecstasy (GHB)**

**ECSTASY:** Methylenedioxyamphetamine/amphetamine, commonly known as ecstasy, is a psychoactive drug used primarily as a recreational drug. Desired effects include increased empathy, euphoria and heightened sensations.

Liquid ecstasy – GHB : Hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) also known as 4-hydroxybutanoic acid, is a naturally occurring neurotransmitter and a psychoactive drug. GHB has been used in a medical setting as a general anesthetic and as a treatment for cataplexy, narcolepsy and alcoholism. It is also used illegally as an intoxicant, to try to increase athletic performance and as a date rape drug. GHB is a central nervous system depressant used as an intoxicant, although it produces a stimulant effect at lower doses. It has many street names including G, Liquid G, Liquid X and Liquid E.

Most people – including – law officers do not know the difference between the two drugs and very few people would be able to recognise or distinguish between the two. Both forms of the drug contain the same illegal ingredient-Methamphetamine- even though they are manufactured from different chemicals. GHB is mostly found in small clandestine laboratories like motor homes, outbuildings or Wendy houses.

Both forms of the drug are very popular at house parties and private trance parties which are

only arranged and advertised online. It is also popular in fringe groups for example LGBT groups. Rave parties are a common attraction for drug dealers who then peddle their merchandise in this way.

Airports intercept Liquid Ecstasy on a regular basis, it is packaged in small glass bottles, bubble wrapped together with icepacks so that it can be transported at normal room temperature. The liquid must be kept cold to maintain its effectiveness. The most popular way to store GHB – Liquid Ecstasy in South Africa is in mineral water bottles in a fridge, because it is transparent and looks like water. The current black-market price is around R 15 000.00 per liter – price differs on availability.

Both drugs are listed under the narcotic act 140/1992

Regards,

**Mike Bolhuis**

**Specialist Investigators into**

**Serious Violent & Serious Economic Crimes**

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