

all of my belongings. The beagle stayed around me for an extended time, the reason being I had two golden retrievers at the time. Once the woman agent understood I was a dog owner, she moved on to the next traveler. I asked if they ever found anything. The female agent pointed to a holding area with a half-dozen people in handcuffs being guarded by armed agents. She said those are the ones trying to bring in illegal controlled substances. The DEA was called to take control of the controlled substances and start the investigation in preparation to prosecute these offenders. And here I thought they only found Cuban cigars on these flights!

DEA National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The DEA works with multiple law enforcement agencies, hospitals, pharmacies, and other entities to accept excess pharmaceutical drugs back from individuals. This is a wonderful service to the general public. According to a 2013 report, an estimated 6.5 million people ages 12 and older are “current nonmedical users of prescription drugs.” In addition, an estimated 70% of people who misuse prescription painkillers for the first time have told authorities that they obtained the drugs from friends or relatives, including home medicine cabinets.²³

“As recently as 2011, more than half of the 41,300 unintentional drug overdose deaths in the United States involved prescription drugs—and opioid pain relievers were involved in nearly 17,000 of those deaths,” Attorney General Eric Holder said. In addition, nearly 110 Americans died every day that year from drug overdoses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.²⁴

The DEA take-back day was September 27, 2014. Prior to 2010 and the initiation of the Pharmaceutical Drug Take-Back Program, people often disposed of leftover or excess medications by flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash. Each of those methods posed potential risks—one to the environment and the other to children who have fished supplies out of the garbage.²⁵ In addition, it keeps the excess pharmaceutical drugs away from the black market.

DEA Summary

Although the DEA is not directly responsible for establishing the regulations for the Drug Quality and Security Act, it will be affected due to the Title II track and trace regulations for pharmaceutical drugs as they relate