

KRATOM PRODUCTS DETAINED AT U.S. BORDERS AS UNSAFE



Why the FDA issues import alerts

Import alerts allow the FDA to stop potentially unsafe or illegal products from entering the U.S. without waiting for full inspection, protecting public health quickly and efficiently.

WHAT IMPORT ALERT 54-15 DOES

- ✓ Allows detention without physical examination (DWPE) of kratom shipments
- ✓ Applies to dietary supplements and bulk ingredients containing kratom
- ✓ Targets products entering the U.S. from identified manufacturers and importers

What the FDA found

- Kratom does not have adequate evidence of safety as a dietary ingredient
- No history of safe use prior to 1994 required for dietary ingredients
- Products are considered adulterated under federal law

Reported Health Risks

- Respiratory depression and neurologic effects
- Hallucinations, agitation, and aggression
- Nausea, vomiting, and severe withdrawal symptoms
- Multi-organ toxicity concerns identified in scientific literature


WHAT THIS MEANS FOR POLICY

- **The FDA is already blocking kratom at the international level**
- **Products are flagged as unsafe before reaching U.S. consumers**
- **Yet similar products remain widely available in domestic retail markets**

If kratom products are stopped at the border as unsafe, they should not be freely sold inside the United States.

Sources

- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) — Import Alert 54-15 (2025)
- Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act — Adulteration (Section 402(f)(1)(B))
- FDA Public Health Assessment of Kratom Safety

 Learn more at www.antikratom.org