

New Alcohol Test Forms for 2011

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a new version of its alcohol testing form in February 2010. However, industry stockpiles were so large that the DOT decided to allow the industry to continue using the existing forms until January 1, 2011.

The new updated alcohol testing form must now be used for all DOT-required alcohol tests. Changes to the old form were minor and included:

- An update to the “Paperwork Reduction Act Burden Statement” which is required by law to be on the form;

- a statement that tamper evident tape cannot obscure the printed information on the form; and
- technical changes to the area where test results are printed.

What This Means For Counties

Counties should review their files and replace their existing alcohol testing forms with the updated version to be in compliance with the DOT.

For more information, contact CTSI at 303-861-0507.

DOT Overhauls Drug Testing Rules

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has made significant changes to its drug testing rules in (49 CFR Part 40), likely resulting in more positive drug tests for commercial drivers. The DOT’s changes will require, testing for **Ecstasy**, lowering the **cutoff levels** for cocaine and amphetamines and require mandatory initial testing for **heroin**.

They also changed the re-qualification process for Medical Review Officers (MRO).

The following are among the major changes:

The rule requires initial and confirmatory testing for Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) also known as **Ecstasy**. The DOT noted that MDMA is not just a club drug any more, it is being marketed to a much larger population in American communities.

The new drug testing rules cut in half the laboratory testing **cutoff levels** for cocaine and amphetamines, making it possible to identify more users of illicit drugs.

The DOT said it expects the change to result in a marked increase in the identification of cocaine users.

The new rule requires initial testing for 6-Acetylmorphine (6-AM), which is produced in the body when a person uses **heroin**. According to the DOT, there are simply no legitimate medical explanations for 6-AM positive tests.

What This Means For Counties

Counties should review their list of drugs for which drivers are tested. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) establishes the drug list and certifies the testing laboratories. The DOT will take the HHS’ lead in adopting alternative testing technologies such as hair testing, saliva testing, and on-site testing, which the HHS does not yet allow.

For more information, contact CTSI at 303-861-0507.