

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR SCHOOL BUS AND COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVERS

Category: O

See Also: Policy EEAEA

School bus and commercial vehicle drivers shall be subject to a drug and alcohol testing program that fulfills the requirements of the Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 382.

Other persons who drive vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver, are likewise subject to the drug and alcohol testing program.

Testing procedures and facilities used for the tests shall conform with the requirements of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, §§ 40, et seq.

Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.

The District will comply with the requirements of the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, in accordance with 49 C.F.R. 391.23. Among other things, the rules provide that school districts that employ their own school bus drivers, or that otherwise employ or authorize the volunteer service of any CDL drivers, are required to:

1. Establish a user account that will enable appropriate personnel to access the clearinghouse database.
2. Report information related to drug and alcohol program violations into the database, as required by the federal regulations.
3. Query the database as part of their obligation to identify prospective drivers who have committed drug and alcohol program violations and who are not legally permitted to operate or perform other “safety-sensitive functions” related to school buses or other commercial motor vehicles.
4. Query the database at least annually for every CDL driver that is currently subject to the employer’s DOT testing program.

Pre-Employment Tests

Tests shall be conducted before the first time a driver performs any safety-sensitive function for the District.

Safety-sensitive functions include all on-duty functions performed from the time a driver begins work or is required to be ready to work, until he/she is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work. It includes driving; waiting to be dispatched; inspecting and servicing equipment; supervising, performing, or assisting in loading and unloading; repairing or obtaining and waiting for help with a disabled vehicle; performing driver requirements related to accidents; and performing any other work for the District or paid work for any entity.

The tests shall be required of an applicant only after he/she has been offered the position.

Exceptions may be made for drivers who have had the alcohol test required by law within the previous 6 months and participated in the drug testing program required by law within the previous 30 days, provided that the District has been able to make all verifications required by law.

Post-Accident Tests

Alcohol and controlled substance tests shall be conducted as soon after an accident as practicable on any driver:

who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle, if the accident involved loss of human life; or

who receives a citation under state or local law, for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident.

Drivers shall make themselves readily available for testing, absent the need for immediate medical attention.

No such driver shall use alcohol for 8 hours after the accident, or until after he/she undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

If an alcohol test is not administered within 2 hours or if a drug test is not administered within 32 hours, the District shall prepare and maintain records explaining why the test was not conducted. Tests will not be given if not administered within 8 hours after the accident for alcohol or within 32 hours for drugs.

Tests conducted by authorized federal, state, or local officials will fulfill post-accident testing requirements provided they conform to applicable legal requirements and are obtained by the District. Breath tests will validate only the alcohol test and cannot be used to fulfill controlled substance testing obligations.

Random Alcohol and Drug Tests

Tests shall be conducted on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year. Tests for alcohol shall be conducted just before, during, or just after the performance of safety-sensitive functions. The number of random tests annually based upon the average number of driver positions must equal the greater of the respective rates determined annually by the United States Department of Transportation, or 15% for alcohol and 50% for drugs. Drivers shall be selected by a scientifically valid random process, and each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made.

Reasonable Suspicion Tests

Tests shall be conducted when a supervisor or District official trained in accordance with law has reasonable suspicion that the driver has violated the District's alcohol or drug prohibitions. This reasonable suspicion must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The observations may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Alcohol tests are authorized for reasonable suspicion only if the required observations are made during, just before, or just after the period of the work day when the driver must comply with alcohol prohibitions. An alcohol test may not be conducted by the person who determines that reasonable suspicion exists to conduct such a test. If an alcohol test is not administered within 2 hours of a determination of reasonable suspicion, the District shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why this was not done. Attempts to conduct alcohol tests shall terminate after 8 hours.

A supervisor or District official who makes observations leading to a controlled substance reasonable suspicion test shall make a written record of his/her observations within 24 hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

Enforcement

Any driver who refuses to submit to a post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up test shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions.

Drivers who test positive for alcohol or drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

A driver who violates District prohibitions related to drugs and alcohol shall receive from the District the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of substance abuse professionals and counseling and treatment programs available to evaluate and resolve drug and alcohol-related problems. The employee shall be evaluated by a substance abuse professional who shall determine what help, if any, the driver needs in resolving such a problem. Any substance abuse professional who determines that a driver needs assistance shall not refer the driver to a private practice, person, or organization in which he/she has a financial interest, except under circumstances allowed by law.

An employee identified as needing help in resolving a drug or alcohol problem shall be evaluated by a substance abuse professional to determine that he/she has properly followed the prescribed rehabilitation program and shall be subject to unannounced follow-up tests after returning to duty.

Return-to-Duty Tests

A drug or alcohol test shall be conducted when a driver who has violated the District's drug or alcohol prohibition returns to performing safety-sensitive duties.

Employees whose conduct involved drugs cannot return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty drug test produces a verified negative result.

Employees whose conduct involved alcohol cannot return to duty in a safety-sensitive function until the return-to-duty alcohol test produces a verified result that meets federal and District standards.

Follow-Up Tests

A driver who violates the District's drug or alcohol prohibition and is subsequently identified by a substance abuse professional as needing assistance in resolving a drug or alcohol problem shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the substance abuse professional in accordance with law. Follow-up alcohol testing shall be conducted just before, during, or just

after the time when the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions.

Records

Employee drug and alcohol test results and records shall be maintained under strict confidentiality and released only in accordance with law. Upon written request, a driver shall receive copies of any records pertaining to his/her use of drugs or alcohol, including any records pertaining to his/her drug or alcohol tests. Records shall be made available to a subsequent employer or other identified persons only as expressly requested in writing by the driver.

Notifications

Each driver shall receive educational materials that explain the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 382, together with a copy of the District's policy and regulations for meeting these requirements. Representatives of employee organizations shall be notified of the availability of this information. The information shall identify:

1. the person designated by the District to answer driver questions about the materials;
2. the categories of drivers who are subject to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 382;
3. sufficient information about the safety-sensitive functions performed by drivers to make clear what period of the workday the driver is required to comply with Part 382;
4. specific information concerning driver conduct that is prohibited by Part 382;
5. the circumstances under which a driver will be tested for drugs and/or alcohol under Part 382;
6. the procedures that will be used to test for the presence of drugs and alcohol, protect the driver and the integrity of the testing processes, safeguard the validity of test results, and ensure that test results are attributed to the correct driver;
7. the requirement that a driver submit to drug and alcohol tests administered in accordance with Part 382;
8. an explanation of what constitutes a refusal to submit to a drug or alcohol test and the attendant consequences;
9. the consequences for drivers found to have violated the drug and alcohol prohibitions of Part 382, including the requirement that the driver be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions and the procedures for referral, evaluation, and treatment;
10. the consequences for drivers found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04; and
11. information concerning the effects of drugs and alcohol on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of a drug or alcohol problem (the drivers or coworkers); and available methods of intervening when a drug or alcohol problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management.

Drivers shall receive notice that certain personal information that is collected and maintained as part of the district's DOT testing program must be reported to the DOT's secure, online clearinghouse database. This includes, for example, verified positive test results, refusals to submit to any DOT-mandated test, any alcohol or controlled-substance use that is prohibited by federal regulation, and information about a driver's follow-up and return-to-duty tests.

Drivers shall also receive information about legal requirements, District policies, disciplinary consequences related to the use of alcohol and drugs.

Each driver shall sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of the above materials.

Before any driver operates a commercial motor vehicle, the District shall provide him/her with post-accident procedures that will make it possible to comply with post-accident testing requirements.

Before drug and alcohol tests are performed, the District shall inform drivers that the tests are given pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 382. This notice shall be provided only after the compliance date specified in law.

The District shall notify a driver of the results of a pre-employment drug test if the driver requests such results within 60 calendar days of being notified of the disposition of his/her employment application.

The District shall notify a driver of the results of random, reasonable suspicion, and post-accident drug tests if the test results are verified positive. The District shall also tell the driver which controlled substance(s) were verified as positive.

Drivers shall inform their supervisors if at any time they are using a controlled substance which their physician has prescribed for therapeutic purposes. Such a substance may be used only if the physician has advised the driver that it will not adversely affect his/her ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.

Legal References:

Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991, 49 U.S.C. §5331
49 C.F.R. § 40.1-40.13 (2001), Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Program
49 C.F.R. Part 382, Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing
49 C.F.R. Part 391, Qualifications of Drivers

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*