



DOT Publishes Final Rule - Effective October 1, 2010

As published in the August 16, 2010 Federal Register, effective October 1, 2010 the Federal Regulation 49 CFR Part 40 Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs will include rule changes that will impact federally regulated drug testing programs. This article will discuss those rule changes directly affecting CorpOHS clients. The most important changes relate to the panel of drugs being tested for and to changes in the cut off levels for several of the drugs on the prior NIDA 5 drug panel. MDMA ("ecstasy") screening testing will be added to the existing NIDA 5 panel, with confirmatory testing for MDMA, MDA and MDEA if the initial screening test is positive. All three are amphetamine type compounds commonly abused as club/rave recreational drugs. The initial cutoff levels for cocaine are decreased from 300 to 150 ng/dl and confirmation test cutoff levels for cocaine are decreased from 150 to 100 ng/dl. The initial cutoff levels for amphetamines are decreased from 1000 to 500 ng/dl and the confirmation test cutoffs for amphetamine and methamphetamine decrease from 500 to 250 ng/dl. These cutoff level changes have been made in an attempt to increase identification of abusers of these drugs. Other revisions affecting MRO retraining, MRO recertification, and MRO recordkeeping and MRO interpretation of lab reporting have already been implemented by CorpOHS.

By law, these changes will automatically take effect for all federally regulated DOT programs on October 1, 2010. Non-regulated testing programs who are currently performing "DOT look-alike" 5 panel tests will continue unchanged and will not include the new MDMA (ecstasy) testing unless specifically requested. Clients wish to revise their current testing programs to reflect the revisions discussed above should contact Tracey Black at 240-566-3011 or tblack@corpohs.com.

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