

MRO UPDATE

VOL. 14, JAN. - DEC. 2008

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- » July/Aug – Invalid: Urine pH 9.0
- » July/Aug – Reporting Abnormal Specific Gravity and Creatinine
- » Oct – Reporting Abnormal Specific Gravity and Creatinine: A Clarification
- » Dec – Federal Prosecutors Cut Off Whizzinator Sales

Alcohol Testing

- » Jan – Testing Reduced Trucker Fatalities
- » Jan – Employee Blames Positive Breath Test on Alcoholism, Asks for ADA Protection
- » Feb – Are Test Providers Responsible for Employers Who Fire Those with Positive Ethyl Glucuronide Tests?
- » Feb – Alcoholic Not Protected by FMLA While Waiting for Treatment
- » March – EBT Test Sites Must be Licensed by the State
- » Nov – Low Concentrations of Ethyl Glucuronide without Ethanol Use or Exposure

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- » April/May – Drug Testing in Alternate Biological Specimens (book review)
- » Sept – Alternative Specimen Monograph and CME

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- » Feb – Invalid for *d* and *l* isomers
- » March – Physicians Misinterpret Drug Test

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- » April/May – Amoxicillin-Cocaine Claim Debunked
- » Jan – Firefighter Blames Cocaine Use on Alcoholism, Asks for ADA Protection

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- » Dec – Positive Result Valid Despite Minor Flaws
- » Dec – Man Steals Refrigerator Containing Drug Test Specimens

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- » Feb – Specimen Validity Testing
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- » April/May – GAO Calls for Stronger Enforcement
- » April/May – Employer Guidelines
- » April/May – Chantix Use Banned

- » June – Part 40 Takes Aim at Cheaters
- » June – OK to Report Test Violations to States
- » June – DOT Test Exempt from State Law Suit
- » July/Aug – New Interpretations
- » July/Aug – Revised Collector, SAP, and Employer Manuals
- » July/Aug – GAO Report: Job Hoppers Don't Admit Positive Drug Tests
- » Sept – Date Postponed for Mandatory Direct Observation of Follow-up and Return-to-duty Collections
- » Sept – Jim Swart Named Director of ODAPC
- » Sept – Extended Test Panels for DOT-Covered Workers
- » Oct – Direct Observation Procedures
- » Nov – Delay in Direct Observation for Follow-up and Return-to-duty Tests
- » Dec – Following DOT Rules Can Cost You
- » Dec – Random Rates Unchanged in 2009

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- » Jan – Taxi Driver Loses License after Positive Test
- » Jan – Positive Drug Test Voids Workers' Comp Benefits
- » Jan – OK to Fire Worker Who Tested Positive
- » Feb – Court Dismisses Charge of Slander Over Test Results
- » March – Positive Test Voids Unemployment Benefits
- » April/May – Firefighter's Reliability Questioned Over Positive Test
- » April/May – Three Negatives Don't Cancel a Positive
- » June – Pilot Loses License Over Positive Drug Test
- » Sept – Positive Drug Test Not Grounds for Disability Denial
- » Nov – Court Says Cold Specimen Was Pretext for Retaliatory Firing

Drug Testing Trends

- » March – Methamphetamine- and Cocaine-Positive Rates Drop
- » March – City Pre-employment Testing Must be Based on Need
- » March – Walgreen's New Occupational Health Division
- » April/May – Drug Testing Increases in Australia
- » Oct – Australia Implements Alcohol and Other Drug Testing

Federal Aviation Administration

- » Sept – FAA Fines American Airlines \$1.7M

Federal Transit Administration

- » Feb – Annual Drug & Alcohol Conference
- » March – Methamphetamine- and Cocaine-Positive Rates Drop

Hair Testing

- » Sept – Negative Hair Test Does Not Disprove Positive Urine Test
- » Nov – Police Officer Beats Positive Hair Test

Impairment

- » Jan – Doctor Can be Sued for Not Warning About Drugs' Side Effects
- » March – Driver Overcomes Presumption of Impairment
- » Nov – MRO Testifies That Positive Test Showed Impairment
- » Dec – Non-Benzodiazepine Sleeping Pills Associated with Increased Risk of Traffic Accidents

Laboratories

- » Dec – Donor Sues Lab for RICO Violation
- » Dec – Fires Set at Drug Testing Lab
- » Dec – Fire Destroys Drug Testing Facility in South Carolina

Marijuana

- » Feb – Employer Can Fire Medical Marijuana User
- » June – Marijuana Potency Reaches a High
- » June – Medical Marijuana OK, But Positive Drug Test is Not
- » July/Aug – Lower THC Levels in Hemp Foods
- » Sept – Court Upholds Finding of Disability Discrimination in Medical Marijuana Case
- » Nov – CA Governor Terminates Marijuana Bill
- » Nov – MA Voters Decriminalize Marijuana
- » Nov – MI Voters Approve Medical Marijuana

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- » Jan – MROCC's New CME Program
- » Feb – MRO Courses/MROCC Certification at AOHC
- » March – Non-MRO Physicians Misinterpret Drug Test Results
- » March – Self-Prescribed Medication
- » June – MRO Assistant Salaries

Mine Safety and Health Administration

- » Oct – Proposed Rule for Prescription Drug Testing
- » Oct – Editorial About MSHA's Proposed Prescription Drug Testing Rule

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

- » April/May – Updated Drug and Alcohol Testing Rule

Opioids

- » Jan – Chronic Use of Opiates Does Not Impair Driving
- » Jan – Urine Better than Sweat at Monitoring Opiates
- » Feb – Teenagers Turn to Prescription Narcotics
- » June – Tramadol Causes Positive Screens for Buprenorphine
- » Nov – Morphine-to-Hydromorphone Findings Replicated
- » Nov – MROs Downgrade Most Opioid-Positives
- » Dec – Painkillers Linked to Overdose Deaths

Oral Fluid Testing

- » Feb – Court Sides with Lab in Oral Fluid Case
- » July/Aug – Oral Fluid Sensitivity Varies by Collection Device
- » Nov – Oral Fluid Positive Rates Similar to Urine

Prescription Drugs

- » July/Aug – SAMHSA Explores Workplace Testing for Prescription Drugs
- » July/Aug – Drugs Still Widely Available on Internet without Prescriptions
- » Sept – Prescription Drugs a Gateway for Teen Drug Abuse
- » Sept – Borrowing of Prescription Drugs is Common

Refusal to Test/Shy Bladder

- » Jan – Is a Cold Specimen a Refusal to Test?
- » Jan – Subway Worker Reinstated After Shy Bladder
- » April/May – Refusal to Test by Gunshot
- » April/May – Genital Herpes Did Not Cause Shy Bladder
- » April/May – Shy Bladder Deemed a Disability
- » Sept – Indignant Patient Did Not Refuse Drug Test
- » Nov – Five Minutes Shy of a Shy Bladder
- » Dec – Fired for Refusal, Not Disability

School Drug Testing

- » Jan – Pediatrics Society Opposes Student Drug Testing
- » Feb – Grants for Student Drug Testing
- » March – Court Rejects Student Athlete Testing
- » April/May – One in Seven Public School Districts Randomly Drug Test Students

Service Agents Behaving Badly

- » Jan – Collector Jailed for Selling Cocaine and Falsifying Drug Tests
- » Jan – Collector Accused of Taking Methamphetamine Bribe for Clean Drug Test
- » Jan – Collector Took Bribe for Clean Drug Test
- » March – Testing Site Sold Donor Detox Pills
- » Nov – On-Site Screener Took Bribes
- » Dec – Collector Accused of Selling Urine

State Drug Testing Laws

- » March – Construction Contractors Must Use Certified MROs (WV)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

- » Dec – Revised *Mandatory Guidelines*

Substance Abuse Professionals

- » June – SAP Not Liable for Positive Return-to-Duty Test

United States Coast Guard

- » March – Extension of Submitting MIS Reports

Welfare

- » Sept – Bill to Require Drug Testing of Federal Aid Recipients

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