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The Right Test at the Right Time

This month's newsletter deals with both federal and non-federal drug screens. The technical names of the forms are "D.O.T. Custody and Control Form" and "Non D.O.T. Custody and Control Form." ***What is the difference? When do you use each?***

A DOT Custody and Control Form is often referred to as a "federal form." This drug screen is to be used **ONLY** for mandated testing for the Department of Transportation. It is used for Federal Motor Carriers, Federal Aviation, and Federal Railway employees. It is as it says, for transportation purposes. There are even times when the transportation employee will have a Non-DOT test. The most common time is when an employee has had an accident. The rules for a test by DOT standards for post-accident are limited to those required to be reported. If the drug test is done because it is company policy or required by insurance and not reportable, a Non-DOT form should be used.

Many drug screens are collected on a DOT form that should be on a Non-DOT form. When investigated, often the company will respond with the answer: "I was told to do a federal drug screen," or "the federal drug screen is the best." If the employee does not fall in a mandated position by DOT (transportation), requesting a federal drug screen implies testing by federal standards. However, the reality is a Non-DOT drug screen is collected, processed and reports at the same levels as the DOT drug screen. The Non-DOT is just as accurate and carries just as much weight. It stands up in court at the same standards as the DOT if collected by federal standards and processed at a federally certified lab.

Another plus for the Non-DOT drug screen is the number of drugs we can test. There are 10 categories and in excess of 85 drugs that can be tested from the Non-DOT test instead of just testing for five categories only, as the DOT drug screen requires.

The collection site, the lab, and we as a third party administrator are subject to fines from the Department of Transportation, if we knowingly request the wrong form. Likewise, the mandated company can receive fines if a Non-DOT test is used when a DOT test is required. However, You, our client, make the final decision as to what test we order.

What does it really matter, a test is a test???

The requirements are set so that the Department of Transportation can monitor the stats for future assessments to keep our roads, skies and railways safe. Tests performed by non-transportation employees "muddy the water" for future decisions.

OHSA encourages you to call us for information in helping you make the right choice for testing. We can help!

OHSA

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