

Drug-Testing Requirements for Companies

An Overview of the "SAMHSA 5" Commonly –Abused Drugs

Depending on the type of business, many companies fall under federal and state regulations that require employee drug testing. Certain industries, particularly those with commercial class drivers, where operation of machinery is required, or where services are performed for federal agencies, are mandated to follow specific federal regulations established by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In many instances, public and private companies that don't fall under the mandatory guidelines also follow SAMHSA standardized procedures to ensure a safe workplace. Part of the mandatory federal workplace drug testing requirements is testing for what is known as the "SAMHSA 5," or the five commonly-abused drugs. The following information, with resources used from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), provides detailed information about the SAMHSA 5 to help you better understand what these drugs are, their side effects, overdose effects and withdrawal symptoms.

1. AMPHETAMINES (amphetamines, methamphetamines, speed)

Drug Class: Stimulant

Type: Prescription Drug, Schedule II controlled substance, some illegal types

Trade Names: Adderall, Adderall XR, Benzedrine, Dexedrine, Obetrol

Street Names: Amp, Bennie, Benny, Billy, Black Beauties, Chalk, Crank, Cristal, Dexy, Goey, Ice, Krystal, Louee, Peop Pills, Phets, Speed, Sulph, Uppers, Whizz

Side Effects: Stimulates central nervous system producing excitability, euphoria, alertness, increased energy, anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations, psychotic behavior, increased pulse rate, and blood pressure, cardiac arrhythmias, loss of appetite, insomnia.

Overdose Effects: Hallucinations, agitation, increased body temperature, convulsions, possible death.

Withdrawal Signs: Depression, irritability, apathy, disorientation, long periods of sleep.

Drug Screening Cut-Off: 1,000ng/ml

Duration of Detection for Urine Testing: 2-4 days

2. CANNABINOIDS (marijuana, hash)

Drug Class: Hallucinogen

Type: Illegal Drug

Trade Names: Dronabinol, Hashish, Marijuana, Marinol, Delta-9-Tetrahydrocannabinol

Street Names: Aunt Mary, Blunt, Blunts, Boom, Bud, Cannabis, Chronic, Doobie, Dope, Gangster, Ganja, Grass, Grifa, Hash, Hash Oil,, Hemp, Herb, Hydro, Indo, Joint, Mary Jane, MJ, Mota, Nail, Pot, Reefer, Sinsemilla, Skunk, Smoke, Weed, Yerba

Side Effects: Euphoric effects, increased appetite, relaxed inhibitions, short-term memory, confusion, disorientation, anxiety, slowed learning, behavioral disorders.

Overdose Effects: Paranoia, fatigue, psychosis.

Withdrawal Signs: Hyperactivity, decreased appetite, insomnia.

Drug Screening Cut-Off: 50ng/ml

Duration of Detection for Urine Testing: 3-4 days for single dose, longer if smoke daily

3. COCAINE (cocaine, crack, benzoylecognine)

Drug Class: Stimulant

Type: Prescription Drug and an Illegal Drug

Trade Names: Cocaine

Street Names: Blanca, Blow, Bumps, Coca, Coke, Crack, Dust, Flake, Lines, Nieve, Nose Candy, Oolies (marijuana laced with crack), Perico, Powder, Rock, Sneeze, Snow, Snowball (cocaine and heroin), Soda, Toot, Tornado (crack), Upper, Wicky Stick (PCP and crack)

Side Effects: Excitability, increased alertness, euphoria, insomnia, loss of appetite, increased pulse rate and blood pressure.

Overdose Effects: Hallucinations, increased body temperature, agitation, convulsions, possible death.

Withdrawal Signs: Depression, apathy, irritability, long periods of sleep.

Drug Screening Cut-Off: 300ng/ml

Duration of Detection For Urine Testing: 2-3 days

4. OPIATES (heroin, opium, codeine, morphine)

Drug Class: Narcotic

Type: Prescription Drug and an Illegal Drug

Trade Names: Acetaminophen, Actiq, Bitartrate, Diacetylmorphine, Codeine, Diamorphine, Dilaudid, Dolophine, Duragesic, Eth-Oxydose, Empirin, Fentanyl, Fioricet w/Codeine, Fiorinal, Guaifenesin w/Codeine, Heroin, Hycodan, Hydrocodone, Hydro-Morphone, Laudanum, Lortab, Lorcet, Opium, Oxycontin, Oxyir, Oxyfast, Paregoric, Percolone, Prometorhazine w/Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Roxanol, Roxicodone, Roxicodone Intensol, Sublimaze, Morphine, Opium, Oxycodone, Tussionex, Tylenol 3, Vicodin, Vicoprofen

Street Names: Black Tar, Captain, Chiva, Cody, Doors & Fours, Horse, Killer, Loads, Negra Oxy, O.C., Pancakes & Syrup, Shit, Skag, Skunk, Smack, Schoolboy, Tango and Cash, Tar, Thunder, TNT, Toxy, Toys, Vike, Watson-387, White Horse, White Stuff, Zero A-Bomb

Side Effects: Euphoria, drowsiness, constricted pupils, nausea, respiratory depression.

Overdose Effects: Clammy skin, slow and shallow breathing, convulsions, coma and possible death.

Withdrawal Signs: Irritability, runny nose, watery eyes, yawning, cramps, chills and seeping, nausea, panic attacks, tremors, loss of appetite.

Drug Screening Cut-Off: 2,000ng/ml

Duration of Detection for Urine Testing: 2-3 days

5. PCP

Drug Class: Illegal Drug

Trade Names: Phencyclidine

Street Names: Amp, Angel Dust, Angel Hair, Angel Poke, Animal Tranq, Beam Me Up Scotty, Cadillac, Cj, Crystal Supergrass (PCP combined with marijuana), Cyclones, Dank, Dust, Elephant, Elephant Tranq, Embalming Fluid, Flake Hog, Fry, Goon, Haze, Hog, Horse Tranq, Hydro, Illy, Ka-

Pow, Ketamine, Killer Joints (PCP combined with marijuana), Killer Weed, Kj, Love Boot, Magic Dust, Mist, Oxone, Ozone, PCE, PCP, PCPy, Peace Pill, Rocket Fuel, Scuffle, Sernyl, Sherm, Sherms, Special K, Soma, Squeeze, Star Dust, Super Weed, Surfer, Tac, TCP, Tic, Tranqs, Wack, Whack, Zombie, Zoot

Side Effects: Mood swings, quick thinking and acting, altered perception of time and distance, illusions and hallucinations, self-injurious behavior.

Overdose Effects: Unable to feel pain, remember or direct movement.

Withdrawal Signs: Drug-seeking behavior.

Drug Screening Cut-Off: 25ng/ml

Duration of Detection For Urine Testing: 3- 8 days