

American Drug Testing

Drug-Free Workplace Programs

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DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ADVISOR

AN ONGOING SERIES TO PROTECT YOUR COMPANY BY HELPING TO KEEP DRUGS OUT OF YOUR WORKPLACE.

Amphetamines Drug-Test Positives Up Among Safety-Sensitive Workers

LYNDHURST, N.J., December 2005 – The proportion of drug-test positives for amphetamines increased among workers subject to federal testing regulations. The Drug Testing Index examines positivity rates among three major testing populations: federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers; the general workforce; and the combined U.S. workforce. Federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers include pilots, bus and truck drivers and

tributed to amphetamines increased by approximately 13%, reaching 0.35% of all drug tests that look for the use

“the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines increased by approximately 13%”

of amphetamines among this group of workers. Between January and December 2004 amphetamines positivity was 0.31%. Growth in amphetamines positivity in the first half of 2005 represents the largest increase in amphetamines positivity among federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers documented by the Drug Testing Index. Previously, between 2003 and 2004 the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines increased by 6%. “Until the first half of 2005, most of the growth in amphetamines positivity had been limited to the general U.S. workforce,” said Barry Sample, Ph.D., Director of Science and Technology for Quest Diagnostics’ Employer Solutions division. “Now we are seeing larger increases in amphetamines use among safety-sensitive workers. At the same time, marijuana drug-test positives are declining among all workers, causing an overall decline in drug-test positivity. This decrease may be a result of lower marijuana use among these

workers; however, it may also be the result of the increased use of devices designed to subvert the drug testing process. Congress has recently taken up the important issue of cheating on workplace drug tests, since holding hearings last May.”

Among general U.S. workforce employees, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines dropped by 4% between January and June 2005, marking the first decline in amphetamines drug-test positivity among this group of workers since 1998. The incidence of positive drug tests attributed to amphetamines reached 0.50% of all drug tests that look for the

changed at 2.3% from 2004. Source: Quest Diagnostics

Negligent Hiring

Employers lose 72% of all negligent hiring suits and the average jury plaintiff award in employment law cases continues to be in excess of \$1,000,000.

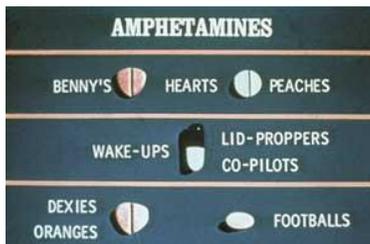


Negligent hiring is an employer’s failure to exercise reasonable caution when choosing an employee. Increasingly, today, courts are holding employers financially and legally responsible for illegal or violent actions taken by employees who were not subjected to reasonable pre-employment screening. In effect, **courts are saying that the employer is responsible** for what they know and **what they should have known about their employees**. Your company can greatly increase its odds of winning a “negligent hiring” lawsuit if it can show that a reasonable effort was made to conduct an applicant background check.

Protect yourself by performing **Employee Background Checks**. American Drug Testing offers background checks for as little as \$5.00 each. Find out more at www.AmericanDrugTesting.net or call (843) 747-4111.



use of amphetamines among these workers. During 2004 amphetamines positivity was 0.52%. Among general U.S. workforce employees, the incidence of positive drug tests attributed to marijuana dropped to 2.65% from 2.88% in 2004. During the first half of 2005, the drug positivity rate for federally-mandated, safety-sensitive workers remained un-



workers in nuclear power plants, for whom routine drug testing is mandated by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. For federally-mandated, safety-sensitive employees, the incidence of positive drug tests at-

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