



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.

Drugs Across the Nation

Drug test alone enough for possession conviction

PIERRE, S.D. - The South Dakota Supreme Court set a legal precedent this month in upholding the conviction of a man who argued that he could not be found guilty of drug possession solely because of an illegal drug in his body.

Joshua Schroeder was arrested while a passenger in a vehicle stopped by a state trooper. Suspecting drug use after finding a small scale and white substance in the vehicle, the lawman asked Schroeder to provide a urine sample and he agreed.

Based on results of the urinalysis (positive for methamphetamine), Circuit Judge Lori Wilbur of Pierre found Schroeder guilty of drug possession. He was given a three-year prison term. AP

Changes in drug testing make process easier, cheaper for employers

Employee drug testing may become easier for employers because of recent advances in testing technologies and an overhaul of federal employee testing procedures that also apply to government-regulated industries such as transportation.

Employers who are federally regulated have no choice in the matter of testing, but non-regulated employers should pay attention.

Government studies reveal that 74 percent of all drug abusers are employed and project that one out of six workers has a drug problem. Drug abusers on average:

- cost their employer \$7,000 to \$10,000 annually;
- cost companies 300 percent more in medical costs and benefits; and
- are absent up to 16 times more often and are one third less productive.



If that's not enough to inspire a testing program: In surveys of drug users themselves, 44 percent admitted selling drugs to co-workers and 18 percent admitted stealing from their employers.

Of course, the best use of employee drug testing is when it serves as the first stage of treatment for those who need help.

New testing on the way

Planned changes in federal employee drug testing have

been announced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) are to take effect in about a year. New methods will include scrutiny of workers' hair,

saliva and sweat that are intended to give employers more certainty about the timing and scope of drug usage than is now possible solely by urine sampling.

Alternative testing methods will "really ramp up our ability to increase the deterrent value of our program, which is basically the whole bottom line," said Robert Stephenson II of SAMHSA's Division of Workplace programs. Source: Baltimore Business Journal

The Drug-Free Workplace Advisor



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is a resource of American Drug Testing, the Lowcountry's premier drug-free workplace administrator, and testing company. Let

us help you maintain a drug-free workplace. Contact us at (843) 747-4111.

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Four Are Charged in High-Profile Steroid Case

SAN FRANCISCO, Four men, including the personal trainer for San Francisco Giants baseball star Barry Bonds, conspired to distribute an exotic array of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs to dozens of athletes from Major League Baseball, the NFL and the world of track and field, the government charged.

The indictment did not name any of the athletes who allegedly received illegal steroids, but it portrayed the four men as operating a virtual clearinghouse for performance-enhancing drugs.

Attorney General John D. Ashcroft, who announced the indictments in Washington, suggested that the government

may yet charge athletes as part of the wide-ranging investigation. " Source: Washington Post

