Frequently Asked Questions: Drug Testing

1. What are dangerous drugs?

According to the Department of Transportation (DOT), dangerous drugs are:

1. Marijuana
2. Cocaine
3. Opiates
    a. Codeine
    b. Morphine
    c. 6-AM (heroin)
4. Phencyclidine (PCP)
5. Amphetamines
    a. Amphetamine
    b. Methamphetamine
    c. MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylamphetamine) (ecstasy)
    d. MDA (3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine)
    e. MDEA (3,4-methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine).

2. When am I required to submit proof that I am free of dangerous drugs?

Proof that you are free of dangerous drugs is required for all transactions EXCEPT increases of scope, duplicates, and international endorsements (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping [STCW]), and medical certificates.

3. How do I prove that I am free of dangerous drugs?

The proof can be submitted by using any of the following options:

1. Provide the results of a test that is a DOT 5-panel and ONLY tests for Marijuana, Cocaine, Opiates, Phencyclidine, and Amphetamines. The test MUST have been conducted within the past 185 days (from the date of the application), sent to a laboratory accredited by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and must be signed by a certified medical review officer.

    a. You can use CG-719P to achieve this. If you do not wish to use this form, the National Maritime Center (NMC) will also accept letters or a completed Federal Chain of Custody form. When using either of these two options you must ensure that all required information is included.

2. Provide a letter attesting to participation in a random drug testing program. The letter MUST be on marine employer, command, or consortium stationary; the letter must be signed by an authorized official and must be dated. Drug tests that have not been conducted IAW 46 & 49 CFR will not be accepted, this could include drug tests administered as conditions of employment.

    a. Verbiage for Marine Employers: "(APPLICANT'S NAME/SSN) has been subject to a random testing program meeting the criteria of Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 16.230 for at least 60 days during the previous 185 days, and has not failed nor refused to participate in a chemical test for dangerous drugs."

    b. Verbiage for Active Duty Military/Military Sealift Command/N.O.A.A./Army Corps of Engineers: "(APPLICANT'S NAME/SSN) has been subject to a random testing program and has never refused to participate in or failed a chemical drug test for dangerous drugs."

4. How do I locate an approved drug testing facility?

Use the Drug Testing Directory Users Guide to assist you in locating an approved drug testing facility.

5. **Where can I get the Chain of Custody form?**

The Chain of Custody form can be obtained by your marine employer or the facility approved to perform a 5-panel DOT.

6. **Am I able to go to the Regional Exam Center (REC) to have the drug testing completed?**

No. RECs are not approved drug testing facilities. Use the Drug Testing Directory Users Guide to assist you in locating an approved drug testing facility.

7. **What do I need to do if my test results show Negative Dilute?**

The NMC does not accept Negative Dilute results.

8. **I am a current mariner and I tested positive on my recent drug test. Can I still renew my credential or will I be required to surrender it?**

Per 46 CFR 16.201(c), positive drug test results MUST be reported to your local Coast Guard Sector. The local sector will determine what actions need to be taken. A positive drug test can result in an assessment period that may result in the Coast Guard not issuing your renewal.

9. **Why does it have to be a 5-panel drug test? Why can't I submit a 7- or 10-panel drug test?**

The DOT is required by the Omnibus Transportation Employees Testing Act to follow the Health and Human Services (HHS) requirements. As of October 1, 2010, HHS will only allow 5-panel drug tests.

10. **Does the drug testing facility have to submit the results or can I?**

The NMC will accept test results from the mariner or the facility where the testing took place, but the mariner is ultimately responsible for ensuring that drug testing results are received by the NMC. If the results are being submitted as part of an application or as additional information for an existing application, the results must be submitted via our online application portal.

11. I tested positive for marijuana, but I am in a state where the use of marijuana for "recreational" purpose is permitted. Will I still be able to obtain a credential?

Consult 46 CFR 10.211(l)(1-5) for evidence of suitability to hold an MMC.