

UNIVERSITY RULE

34.02.99.M2 Substance Abuse Prevention Rule for DOT-Regulated Employees

Approved January 13, 1999

Next Scheduled Review: Currently Under Review

Supplements [System Policy 34.02](#) and [University Rule 34.02.01.M1](#)

1. PURPOSE

1.1 This Substance-Abuse Prevention Rule for DOT-Regulated employees addresses:

- (1) alcohol use or abuse;
- (2) the illegal use, sale, or possession of drugs; and
- (3) the misuse of drugs.

This Rule sets forth the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) drug- and alcohol-testing requirements for covered drivers as defined in 49 CFR Part 382. TAMU reserves the right to change these requirements as required by law or as it otherwise deems appropriate with or without notice to employees. Drivers covered by this Rule must also comply with [University Rule 34.02.01.M1](#) and [Standard Administrative Procedures 34.02.99.M1.01](#) and [34.02.99.M2.01](#). However, in the event of any inconsistencies with the Rules or procedures, the federal requirements in this Rule shall apply.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This Rule describes the requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation's mandatory drug and alcohol-testing program for covered drivers, and the consequences of violating University Rules and/or failing a DOT-required drug and/or alcohol test. Any covered driver who becomes ineligible to drive because of a positive drug or alcohol test also will be considered to be in violation of [University Rule 34.02.01.M1](#), and may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination, in addition to and independent of any sanction imposed by the DOT Rules. Any questions you have regarding this policy should be directed to the [Human Resources](#).
- 2.2 Covered drivers include individuals operating commercial motor vehicles as defined in section 3.1.
- 2.3 In addition, TAMU prohibits the use of alcohol on the job or which impairs to any extent performance on the job.

- 2.4 Any violation of this Rule shall result in disciplinary action up to and including termination and referral for criminal prosecution. Job applicants in violation of this policy shall be denied employment. For more information, please refer to [University Rule 34.02.01.M1](#).
- 2.5 A driver who becomes unqualified to drive for any reason (including, but not limited to, suspension or revocation of the commercial driver's license, insurability, and/or failure to pass a medical or any written or driving examination), may be terminated.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV)

A commercial motor vehicle means a motor vehicle or combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or property if the vehicle:

- 3.1.1 has a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 or more pounds, inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle rating of more than 10,000 pounds;
- 3.1.2 has a gross vehicle rating of 26,001 or more pounds;
- 3.1.3 is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver; or
- 3.1.4 is of any size and is used in the transportation of hazardous materials requiring a placard.

3.2 Safety-Sensitive Function(s)

Safety-sensitive functions include:

- 3.2.1 all CMV driving time;
- 3.2.2 all time waiting to be dispatched to drive a CMV;
- 3.2.3 all time remaining in readiness to drive a CMV;
- 3.2.4 all time in or upon a CMV (except resting in a sleeper berth);
- 3.2.5 all time spent performing driver requirements relating to accidents;
- 3.2.6 all time loading, unloading, inspecting, servicing or conditioning CMVs;
- 3.2.7 all time supervising or assisting in or attending to the loading of CMVs or in giving or receiving receipts for shipments loaded or unloaded; and

3.2.8 all time repairing or obtaining assistance to repair, or remaining in attendance during the repair of a disabled CMV.

3.3 On-Duty and Duty

“On-duty” and “duty” include all and any time engaging in safety-sensitive functions. It also includes all time performing any other work for TAMU.

3.4 Refuse To Submit And Refusal To Submit

A refusal to submit or to refuse to submit to testing means:

3.4.1 a failure to provide adequate breath for alcohol testing without a valid medical explanation;

3.4.2 a failure to provide adequate urine for controlled substances testing without a valid medical explanation;

3.4.3 engaging in conduct that clearly obstructs the testing process; or

3.4.4 refusing to sign the certification forms, tampering with or attempting to adulterate a test sample, or otherwise failing to cooperate with the testing process in a way that prevents the completion of the test.

4. PROHIBITIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

4.1 A violation of this Policy will result in:

4.1.1 immediate removal from safety-sensitive functions;

4.1.2 referral to a substance abuse professional as addressed in Section 8; and/or

4.1.3 disciplinary action as addressed in Section 2.4.

4.2 The DOT regulations and TAMU prohibit the following:

4.2.1 Alcohol concentration: No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of .04 or greater;

4.2.2 Alcohol possession: No driver shall be on duty or operate a CMV while the driver possesses wine, beer or distilled spirits;

- 4.2.3 On-duty use: No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions;
- 4.2.4 Pre-duty use: No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol;
- 4.2.5 Use following an accident: No driver who is required to take a post-accident test as set forth below shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident, or until after they undergo a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first;
- 4.2.6 Refusal to submit to testing: No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or controlled substance test required by this Rule;
- 4.2.7 Controlled Substance Use: No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substance, except when the use is pursuant to the instructions of a physician who has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle. Drivers must inform their supervisors of any therapeutic drug use;
- 4.2.8 Controlled substances testing: No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty or perform a safety-sensitive function, if the driver tests positive for controlled substances.

5. TESTING: WHEN TESTING IS REQUIRED AND CONSEQUENCES OF REFUSAL

5.1 TAMU and federal regulations require drivers to submit to alcohol and controlled substances tests administered in accordance with the regulations. A refusal to submit to an alcohol or a controlled substances test is a violation of the federal regulations and of University Rules resulting in automatic termination.

5.2 The regulations and TAMU require testing in the following six circumstances:

5.2.1 Pre-employment/Pre-Use Testing: Prior to the first time a driver performs safety-sensitive functions, the driver shall undergo testing for controlled substances. There are very limited exceptions to the pre-employment testing requirement for drivers who have recently undergone testing, passed such tests, and have not violated any DOT regulations regarding alcohol or controlled substances. For job applicants, pursuant to TAMU policy, testing positive will result in the rejection of the employment application.

5.2.2 Post-Accident Testing: Post-accident testing for alcohol and controlled

substances is required for covered drivers if the accident involves a fatality or if the driver receives a citation under state or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident. Independent of the federal regulations, TAMU reserves the right to test employees after accidents even if the accident did not involve a fatality or a moving traffic violation citation, as part of its investigation of the accident. The testing must be done as soon as practicable following the accident. Each surviving driver who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle must be tested. A driver who is subject to post-accident testing shall remain readily available for such testing or may be deemed by TAMU to have refused to submit to testing.

Specific instructions regarding post-accident testing are listed in [Standard Administrative Procedure 34.02.01.99.M2.01: Post-Accident Testing Instructions](#).

- 5.2.3 Random Testing: Drivers will be selected for random alcohol and controlled substances testing using a scientifically valid method such as a computer-based random number generator that is matched with a driver's social security number, payroll identification number or other comparable identifying numbers. Each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. Accordingly, even if a driver has been randomly tested within the last year, the driver can be selected again for random testing in that same year. Random tests are unannounced and will be spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.

When a driver is notified that they have been selected to take a random drug test, the driver must proceed to the test site immediately; provided, however, that if the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function at the time of notification, TAMU shall ensure that the driver ceases to perform the safety-sensitive function and then proceeds to the test site as soon as possible. A driver will only be tested for alcohol while the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions, just before the driver is to perform safety-sensitive functions, or just after the driver has ceased performing such functions.

- 5.2.4 Reasonable Suspicion Testing:

- 5.2.4.1 Required observations for alcohol and/or controlled substances reasonable suspicion testing shall be made by a supervisor or TAMU official who is trained in accordance with 49 CFR, 382.603.

- 5.2.4.2 The decision to test an employee for alcohol and controlled

substances testing will be in accordance with [System Policy 34.02](#).

5.2.4.3

Concerning alcohol: TAMU must and will require a driver to submit to an alcohol test when TAMU has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has violated the prohibitions set forth above concerning alcohol, except for prohibition in Section 5.2.2 regarding alcohol possession. The determination that reasonable suspicion exists will be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the driver. Alcohol testing is authorized by the Human Resources Director only if the reasonable suspicion observations are made during, just preceding, or just after any period of the work day during which the driver is required to be in compliance with the drug and alcohol policies and procedures. A driver may be directed by TAMU to undergo reasonable suspicion testing only while the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions, just before the driver is to perform safety-sensitive functions, or just after the driver has ceased performing such functions.

An alcohol test should be administered within two (2) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion. If it cannot be done within two (2) hours, the supervisor or manager must document why the test was not promptly administered but shall still arrange for testing up until eight (8) hours after the determination of reasonable suspicion.

If TAMU has a reasonable suspicion that a driver may have violated the provisions on alcohol use, but an alcohol test cannot be performed immediately, TAMU must not and will not permit the driver to perform safety-sensitive functions until:

24 hours have passed from the time of the reasonable suspicion determination; or the driver takes and passes an alcohol test with a concentration of less than .02.

5.2.4.4

Concerning Controlled Substances: TAMU must and will require a driver to submit to a controlled substances test when TAMU has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has violated the prohibitions concerning controlled substances.

The determination that reasonable suspicion exists must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observation concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the driver, including behavior or symptoms which indicate chronic and/or withdrawal effects of the use of controlled substances. Within 24 hours of requesting testing or before the results are released, the person who made the observations, etc. shall make and sign a written record of the bases leading to a controlled substance reasonable suspicion test.

5.2.5 Return-To-Duty Testing:

5.2.5.1 Concerning alcohol: Before a driver can return to safety-sensitive functions, after engaging in prohibited conduct concerning alcohol, the driver shall successfully complete evaluation, treatment as approved by TAMU and in accordance with regulations and Rules, and testing with the result indicating an alcohol concentration of less than .02.

5.2.5.2 Concerning controlled substances: Before a driver can return to safety-sensitive functions after engaging in prohibited conduct concerning controlled substances, the driver shall successfully complete evaluation, treatment as approved by TAMU and in accordance with the regulations and Rules and testing with the result indicating a verified negative result for controlled substance use.

5.2.6 Follow-Up Testing: Following a determination that a driver is in need of assistance in resolving controlled substances and/or alcohol problems, when and if a driver is permitted to return to a safety-sensitive position the driver will be required to undergo unannounced follow-up alcohol and/or controlled substances testing, as directed by a substance abuse professional. Follow-up alcohol testing shall be conducted only when the driver is performing safety-sensitive functions, just before the driver is to perform safety-sensitive functions, or just after the driver has ceased performing safety-sensitive functions.

6. ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ABUSE TESTING

6.1 Procedures for alcohol and controlled substances testing (screening) are defined in [Standard Administrative Procedure 34.02.99.M1.01](#).

6.2 The decision to test for alcohol and controlled substances will be in accordance with [System Policy 34.02](#).

7. TESTING: CONSEQUENCES OF A POSITIVE RESULT

7.1 Any driver who tests positive for alcohol at a level of .04 or greater or tests positive for controlled substances may be immediately terminated. If an employee is not terminated, the employee may be permitted to return to work only if :

7.1.1 the employee successfully completes a program of evaluation and treatment required by the regulations and Rules and as approved by TAMU;

7.1.2 the employee is tested and test results are negative;

7.1.3 the employee presents to TAMU a currently valid commercial driver's license and medical examiner certificate; and

7.1.4 the employee signs the Job Jeopardy Return-to-Work Agreement provided by TAMU with said Agreement including requirements for random testing for at least one year up to a maximum of five years, and for discharge and ineligibility for reinstatement if the driver tests positive a second time or refuses to submit to testing. The Return-to-Work Agreement will contain other requirements and provisions at TAMU's discretion. Any cost of rehabilitation over and above that paid for by the applicable healthcare plan must be borne by the employee.

7.2 The possibility of returning to work described above does not extend to a driver who:

7.2.1 refused to submit to testing;

7.2.2 possessed a prohibited and illegal substance while on the job; or

7.2.3 tested positive in a post-accident situation.

8. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

8.1 If an employee is concerned about their use of alcohol or controlled substances or the use of alcohol or controlled substances by a co-worker, it is the employee's responsibility to seek assistance from management or from any assistance programs available in the community.

8.2 When a driver has engaged in prohibited conduct, the driver will be referred to a substance abuse professional for evaluation. The substance abuse professional will determine what assistance, if any, the driver needs in resolving problems associated with alcohol misuse and controlled substances use. Each driver identified as needing

assistance shall be monitored by a substance abuse professional to determine that the driver has properly followed any rehabilitation program as prescribed by the professional.

- 8.3 If the driver is reinstated by TAMU or seeks work performing safety-sensitive functions for another company, they shall be subject to unannounced follow-up alcohol and controlled substances tests administered by TAMU or the new employer following the driver's return to duty as required by DOT regulations. The number and frequency of such follow-up tests will be as directed by the substance abuse professional and shall consist of at least 6 tests in the first twelve months following the driver's return to duty. The driver may undergo return-to-duty and follow-up testing for both alcohol and controlled substances as necessary for that particular driver. Follow-up testing will not be required for more than sixty (60) months (5 years) from the date of the driver's return to duty.
- 8.4 When referral to a substance abuse professional is required by the regulations (i.e., when a driver has engaged in prohibited conduct) and the driver is still employed, the driver must receive assistance from a professional approved by TAMU. If the substance abuse professional determines that a driver requires assistance, the driver will be referred to a person or organization independent from the substance abuse professional. However, the driver will be required to complete any recommended course of treatment to the satisfaction of both the substance abuse professional and TAMU.
- 8.5 The employee assistance, referral and evaluation discussed in this section do not apply to applicants for employment. Rather, this section applies only to current employees, and this section does not in any way change, alter, or modify TAMU's independent right to discipline any employee up to and including immediate termination

9. OBLIGATION TO CONTACT PRIOR EMPLOYERS

- 9.1 Before a driver will be permitted to perform any safety-sensitive functions for the first time for TAMU, TAMU is obliged to obtain information regarding whether the driver has, in the past 2 years, tested positive for controlled substances, had an alcohol test with a concentration of .04 or greater, or refused to be tested, by contacting each of the driver's previous employers.
- 9.2 TAMU cannot use a driver to perform safety-sensitive functions if TAMU obtains information from a prior employer of the driver's positive alcohol test with a concentration result of .04 or greater, a verified positive controlled substances test result, or a refusal to be tested, unless the driver also provides information regarding the successful evaluation and completion of treatment recommended by a substance

abuse professional, as well as confirmation that the driver successfully completed any required return-to-duty tests.

- 9.3 In order for TAMU to obtain the required information, the driver will be required to complete and sign a written request and consent to release information for each of the driver's previous employers during the preceding two year period. Independent of the regulations and as a matter of University policy, if TAMU does not receive the required information from previous employers, any offer of employment will be rescinded, or if the driver has commenced employment, the driver's employment will be terminated.

- 9.4 TAMU is obliged to provide similar information to the driver's future employers and TAMU requires the driver to complete and sign an authorization for the release of information in order to permit University to release the information to future employers.

10. CERTIFICATE OF RECEIPT

- 10.1 The regulations require that each driver sign a statement certifying that the driver has received a copy of this Rule, and applicable Standard Administrative Procedures. Accordingly, the driver must sign the Certificate (attached as [Appendix A](#)) and return the original of the Certificate to the hiring department. The driver may keep a copy of the Certificate for his/her own records, if desired. Required information is also provided in the Employee Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Rehabilitation Program brochure distributed annually to all employees.

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: [Human Resources Department](#)