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, Dextedrine, Obetrol
   - **Street Names:** Amp, Bennie, Benny, Billy, Black Beauties, Chalk, Crank, Cristal, Dexy, Goey, Ice, Krystal, Louee, Pep 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, Grífâ, 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 smoked daily
3. COCAINE (cocaine, crack, benzoylecgonine)
   **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, Diacetimorphine, Codeine, Diamorphine, Dilaudid, Dolophine, Duragesic, Eth-Oxydose, Empirin, Fentanyl, Fioricet w/Codeine, Fiorinal, Guaifenesin with Codeine, Heroin, Hycodan, Hydrocodone, Hydro-Morphine, Laudanum, Lortab, Loracet, Opium, Oxycontin, Oxycodone, Paregoric, Percolone, Promethazine with 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 sweating, 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:** Hallucinogen
   **Type:** 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, Ozone, 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