

Drug Test Specimens: Test Types and Standards

Test Type	Lab Standards	MRO Standards	Detection Window	Turn-around Time
Urine/DOT "The Gold Standard" for <u>urine drug testing</u>. (DS+ requires SVT for all testing.)				
DOT Regulated. Col Site, Lab, MRO, and TPA must meet DOT regulations.	DOT Regulated. <u>SVT is optional</u> , but if used must meet DOT regulations.	DOT Regulated. Standards for evaluation of all possible results reported by lab.	THC: 24h-3w+ Amp/M: 24-72h Coc: 24-72h Opiates: 24-72h PCP: 24-96h	DS+ MRO-verified Neg=90% nxt day Pos=95% 72hrs
For ALL non-DOT tests (below): No fed regs. Employer responsible for checking state regs/laws. DOT working on standards for alternate test methods (POCT, Oral Fluid, Hair, none established.				
Urine DS+ DFWP DS+ Drug Free Workplace Program... "just like DOT"				
DS+ follows DOT regs. Other Service Agents, MROs, and TPAs may not.	DS+ requires lab to use DOT standards and requires SVT on all specimens.	DS+ MRO follows DOT standards.	THC: 24h-3w+ Amp/M: 24-72h Coc: 24-72h Opiates: 24-72h PCP: 24-96h	DS+ MRO-verified Neg=90% nxt day Pos=95% 72hrs
Urine Non-DOT (not DS+ DFWP) May be <u>more/less</u> drugs in test panel. SVT not "standard".				
State stds may be "DOT-like" for employment uses.	Lab threshold levels may not be DOT compliant or DOT established.	MRO procedures may not be DOT compliant or DOT established	May vary due to threshold levels or lab practice.	Potentially same as above, but may vary due to lab or MRO.
Urine POCT (Point of Collection) Test @ collect site with/without lab confirmation. Fast(-)				
Subject to collusion and to employee theft of test cups for private sale/use.	Be sure that non-negative lab confirm is avail. "Industry" stds vs DOT stds.	Individual MRO standards and/or lab guidance if/when available.	May vary due to threshold levels or lab practice.	"Same-day" for POCT-negative. 24-72+ hours if lab confirm/MRO
Oral Fluid POCT Saliva test @ coll site. Possible "nexus" to post-accident, R/S. Fast(-).				
Not susceptible to "substitution" or "dilution" (except with "collusion").	Check availability of non-negative confirmation. No industry/DOT stds available.	Individ MRO stds or lab guidance. If "forensic use only" not suitable for employ use.	THC: 6-24h Amp/M: 24-36h Coc: 24-36h Opiates: 24-36h PCP: 24-36h	←Limit/Benefit ↑ "Same-day" for POCT-negative. 24-72+ hours if lab confirm/MRO
Oral Fluid LAB More "reliable" than POCT. Possible "nexus" to post-accident, R/S.				
Not susceptible to "substitution" or "dilution" (except with "collusion").	No established standards. I.o.d. varies from lab to lab.	Individ MRO stds or lab guidance. If "forensic use only" not suitable for employ use.	THC: <24h Amp/M: 24-36h Coc: 24-36h Opiates: 24-36h PCP: 24-36h	←Limit/Benefit ↑ Not fast/cheap. If (+) may follow-up w/urine test on P/A or R/S.
Hair-Psychemedics "Gold Standard" hair test...track record of reliability & defensibility.				
Not susceptible to "substitution" or "dilution" (except with "collusion").	Psychemedics established lab standards. No DOT stds.	Psychemedics established MRO standards. No DOT stds.	NOT good for 1st 3-7 days after use, but drugs detectible up to 3 months.	DS+ MRO-verified result about 1 day longer than for Urine DOT.
Hair-Other Labs May be cheaper. Possible DOT stds would increase reliability in future.				
Not susceptible to "substitution" or "dilution" (except with "collusion").	Individual lab standards. No DOT stds.	See individual lab for any available standards. No DOT stds.	Should be same as above but (+/-) results may vary.	May vary from <24 hours to 2-4+ days.