

## EDUCATING THE WORKFORCE IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

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### DATCS

- ▶ 25+ years in the drug testing industry
- ▶ DOT Compliance
- ▶ Specialized Training
- ▶ Background checks
- ▶ On-Site testing
- ▶ 24/7 Availability
- ▶ Pre-employment testing
- ▶ Hair/Nail/Oral fluids testing
- ▶ DNA/Paternity
- ▶ 8,000 collection sites nationally



## Synthetic Urine – It’s Worse Than You Think

DATCS has caught a total of 113 donors falsifying their urine sample with confirmed synthetic urine, with 66 unconfirmed samples that showed signs of being synthetic. 80% of the confirmed catches were on pre-employment tests, which shows how important the notification process with the donor’s arrival time to the collection site really is.

By definition, synthetic urine is synthesized to circumvent laboratory validity testing such as creatinine, pH, and specific gravity.

DATCS is working with the University of Texas to expand our statistics for a more articulate representation of this problem at a national level. Justin Kyle, Training Manager, has contacted the directors of the Department of Transportation and the Health and Human Services (HHS) about this rising issue. Both agencies were surprised and thankful for the statistics regarding this problem and are in the process of trying to get the

manufacturers regulated.

DATCS has contacted every major distributor and manufacturer of synthetic urine in our country, and we know that these companies are not regulated by any third party. Considering that these companies are now adding animal urine or repellant to get a more “realistic feel”, put simply, there is no way of knowing what exactly is being added to these “novelty items”.

The statistics are staggering. In the DATCS corporate office, located in Longview, TX, 179 samples were caught by our highly trained collectors and believed to be synthetic. In a city with the population of approximately 217,900, there are 5 collection sites that offer similar services as DATCS and

9 businesses that sell synthetic urine over the counter. If every collection site in the Longview area caught around the same number of synthetic samples, that would be nearly 900 tests since 2013. This is a troubling matter when looking at this situation on a national level.

DATCS offers the first formal training for recognizing synthetic urine during the collection process in our industry. We are also in the process of starting a petition for regulating these laboratories at a legislative level.

If you are interested in supporting our efforts or would like to learn more about recognizing the properties of synthetic urine samples, contact Justin at [Justin.kyle@datcs.com](mailto:Justin.kyle@datcs.com) or call 903-234-1136.



## Alcohol Collection First!

Thorough collectors and Drug and Alcohol Program Managers (DAPMs) always strive to ensure that breath-alcohol tests proceed urine drug tests to the “greatest extent practicable” (49 CFR Part 40.61 and 49 Part 40.241), a requirement that exists because alcohol is processed by the human body much more quickly than illegal drugs.

Per 49 CFR Part 40.209(b)(4), the error of conducting a drug test before an alcohol test may be considered “a delay in the collection process.” Under most circumstances, such

delays last only a few minutes and will not have a “significant adverse effect on the right of the employee to have a fair and accurate test.” However, in some cases delays can be extensive. For example, if a collector initiates a drug test and the donor is unable to produce sufficient urine, the donor is given up to three hours to provide an adequate specimen. If an alcohol test occurs after a drug test with this kind of “shy-bladder” event, a potentially intoxicated employee will have been given ample time to significantly lower their Blood Alcohol Content (BAC).

To protect yourself and public safety, “as a collector, laboratory, MRO, employer or other person administering the drug testing process, you must document any errors in the testing process of which you become aware, even if they are considered problems that will cause a test to be canceled.” (40.209(a)) DAPMs should always check Alcohol Testing Forms (ATFs) and Custody and Control Forms (CCFs) and note the time of each test. If a drug test has occurred before an alcohol test, immediately contact the collection site to seek an explanation.



## Good Faith Effort

All DOT-covered employers are required (§40.25) to obtain an applicant’s written consent in order to get drug and alcohol test results from DOT-covered employers who previously employed the applicant during any period during any period the preceding two years. The applicant’s written consent and request for information must be sent to each identified DOT-covered employer and a good faith effort must be made to obtain the information. If possible, this information should be obtained prior to the applicant’s first

performance of safety-sensitive functions. If not, the employer should make a good faith effort for at least 30 days from the date on which the applicant first performed safety-sensitive functions unless the information has already been obtained. The good faith effort must be documented and maintained for a period of at least three years.

Should a previous DOT-covered employer be out-of-business or unable to be located, the employer should document all efforts used to obtain the information. Should these efforts fail,

documentation of these efforts should be maintained for three years.

The regulation does not specifically describe what constitutes a good faith effort, but a single attempt within the 30-day period following the applicant’s hire is sufficient. If the previous employer fails to reply to the good faith effort within 30 days, no further effort is required. Every telephone call log, email, or written correspondence should be maintained as documentation of the good faith effort.

DATCS would like to express our gratitude to all the professional truck drivers for their dedication and hard work.



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# URINE ADULTERATION

## datcs

DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING COMPLIANCE SERVICES



The collector checks the temperature as soon as the donor hands over the specimen. The temperature is determined by reading the temperature strip originally affixed to or placed on the outside of the collection container.

Temperature must be 90-100 degrees Fahrenheit. Green is the actual temperature. Tan is the actual temperature minus 1.

Synthetic urine is a chemically designed/manufactured liquid used specifically to adulterate or cheat a urine drug test. When compared with authentic human urine, synthetic urine has distinct characteristics that stand out (viscosity, coloration, foaming, smell, etc.)



Synthetic urine is comparable to water, smells like cleaning product, and is normally not the right temperature.



Real urine has bodily waste. Fake urine doesn't have particles. Color depends on hydration.

Human urine is a bodily waste that should have both a specific creatinine concentration and a specific Ph measurement (both of which are tested at the laboratories.) The majority of genuine urine specimens, depending on hydration, will contain visible floating debris or waste particles. In comparison to real urine, synthetic urine samples have shown no such visible characteristics. The density of synthetic urine is comparable (sometimes appearing identical) to water.

The essential characteristic for a specimen to have in order for a collector to determine whether a second collection is necessary is the odor. The collector is required to immediately conduct a second collection under direct observation if the original smells like bleach or detergent.

