

ONRSR Drug & Alcohol Testing – TASMANIA

Information for Rail Transport Operators



This testing is in addition to the drug and alcohol testing you undertake as part of your DAMP

Under the *Rail Safety National Law* (RSNL) a rail safety worker (RSW) must not carry out or attempt to carry out rail safety work while there is alcohol or a prescribed drug in his or her blood (s.128). The meaning of 'prescribed drug' is set out in s. 128.

To manage the risk to safety of RSWs undertaking rail safety work whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol, rail transport operators (RTOs) are required to have a Drug and Alcohol Management Program (DAMP) in place which includes a testing regime (reg. 28 of the RSNL National Regulations).

To complement this and to ensure compliance with the RSNL, the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) has implemented its drug and alcohol testing program in line with the provisions contained in Part 3 Division 9 of the RSNL.

There are three primary objectives of the program:

1. To improve safety by reducing risks associated with RSWs undertaking work while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol (i.e. by being a deterrent)
2. To monitor compliance with the Law
3. To monitor the effectiveness of an RTO's DAMP.

The program will consist of post-incident testing of RSWs in response to Category A incidents and programmed ('non incident related') testing of RSWs. Programmed testing includes intelligence-led risk-based testing and random testing.

ONRSR has appointed Medvet Science Pty Ltd (Medvet) to undertake testing on its behalf. Medvet testers will arrive unannounced on site to conduct drug and alcohol testing of RSWs. Medvet testers are appointed by the Regulator as authorised persons and will carry identity cards, which will be produced upon request.

Important information for RSWs

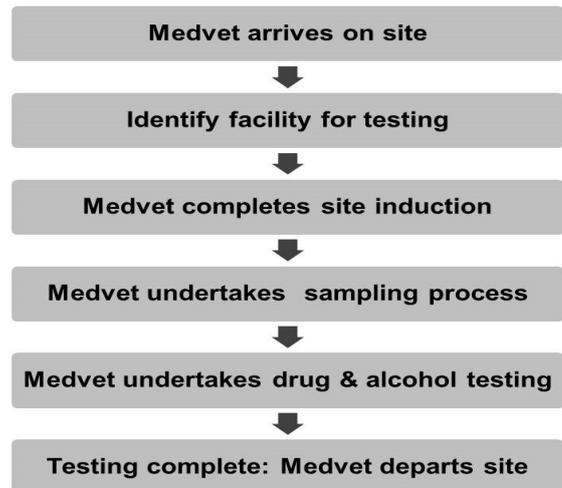
A RSW must not carry out or attempt to carry out rail safety work while there is alcohol or a prescribed drug in his or her blood. There are a number of offences in relation to the program:

- > presence of prescribed drugs or alcohol in the RSW's blood

- > if a RSW is under the influence of alcohol/drugs
- > if a RSW refuses a test
- > if a RSW does not follow the direction of an authorised person (Medvet tester).

Maximum penalty for these offences is \$10,000.

Drug and alcohol testing process



What happens if a non-negative test result is received from a screening test?

- > Confirmatory drug testing

Medvet notifies of non-negative result

- Medvet will notify your representative that a non-negative result has been received and request they accompany Medvet and the RSW to the nearest medical facility or hospital for a blood test
- Your representative will also need to manage the potential safety implications and trigger your DAMP

Doctor or nurse undertake confirmatory blood test

- Medvet tester and your representative accompany the RSW to the nearest medical facility or hospital for a blood test

Test results from laboratory

- ONRSR will advise you of the test results
- You are required to advise the RSW of the test results

- > Confirmatory alcohol testing

Medvet notifies of non-negative result

- Medvet will notify your representative that a non-negative result has been received and request they accompany Medvet and the RSW to the nearest police station for breath analysis testing
- Your representative will also need to manage the potential safety implications and trigger your DAMP

Police undertake confirmatory breath analysis test

- Medvet tester and your representative accompany the RSW to the nearest police station for a breath analysis test

Immediate breath analysis result

- The test result will be available immediately

For more information about the ONRSR drug and alcohol testing program call (08) 8406 1500.