



CUTR
CENTER for URBAN
TRANSPORTATION
RESEARCH

Regulatory Updates
FTA Drug and Alcohol Testing Program
Florida Transit Safety Summit
Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Center for Urban Transportation Research | University of South Florida

FTA 49 CFR Part 655

- Applicability:
 - Grantees and sub-grantees (aka sub-recipients) of Section 5311, 5307, 5309
 - Oversight of Section 5307 & 5309 grantee is performed by FTA
 - Oversight of Section 5311 sub-grantee is performed by FDOT
 - Any contractors that are standing in the shoes of the grantee or sub-grantee
 - Oversight of contractors is the responsibility of the grantee/sub-grantee but is measured by the applicable oversight agency

FTA 49 CFR Part 655

- Covered employees are those that may be called upon to:
 1. Operate a revenue service vehicle
 2. Perform maintenance on a revenue service vehicle
 3. Control movement of a revenue service vehicle
 4. Operate a non-revenue service vehicle when a CDL is required
 5. Carry a firearm as part of transit security detail



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USDOT Rule 49 CFR Part 40

- These regulations describe in great detail HOW the testing must be performed
 - Specimens permitted to be tested
 - Drug classes being tested
 - Collection & lab analysis processes
 - Medical Review Officer & result reporting process
 - Return-to-Duty process when a covered employee has tested positive or refused to submit to testing under any DOT regulated employer's program



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FTA Resources

- Annual (free) conference
 - April 2016 in Sacramento, CA
- Regulations Updates Newsletters
 - Always posted on FDOT SAM website
- Email blasts
 - Sign-up on FTA's Transit Safety Oversight website
- One-day seminars
 - Listed in Updates Newsletter and on FTA website
- TSI Classes
 - Listed in Updates Newsletters and on FTA website



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FDOT "SAM" Program

- Resource Website: www.sam.cutr.usf.edu
- Training available to all transit systems in the state of FL
- FDOT Certificate Program
- TSI Extension Classes
- SAM Listserv
- 24/7 Technical Support: 813-426-6980



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On the Horizon

- Electronic custody and control form
- Oral fluid testing
- National clearinghouse for the return-to-duty process
- Revisions to 49 CFR Part 655
- Expanded drug panel to include synthetic opioids



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Timeline and Implementation Issues

- Electronic custody and control form
 - Form approved, but labs must develop the technology
- Oral fluid screening for prohibited drugs
 - In the comment period
- National clearinghouse for the return-to-duty process
 - Rolling out for FMCSA regulated employers in 2017
- Revisions to 49 CFR Part 655
 - Stalled at this point
- Expanded drug panel to include synthetic opioids
 - Likely will become required for post-accident testing in the next 2 years



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Communication

- FDOT/CUTR networks will release information as it becomes relevant and when action must be taken
- Training and technical assistance will be available to all transit agencies when/if these “on the horizon” changes become reality
- SAM Listserv will help get appropriate information to your agency’s DER
 - Listserv “sign-up” will be posted this month on the SAM website



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