



Information Alert



REVISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD FOR URINE DRUG TESTING

The *Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2003* (the Regulation) requires urine drug testing to be conducted in accordance with AS/NZS 4308:2001, *Procedures for the collection, detection and quantitation of drugs of abuse in urine*.

AS/NZS 4308:2001 was recently revised.

The new AS/NZS 4308:2008, *Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs of abuse in urine* was published on 19 March 2008 and supersedes AS/NZS 4308:2001.

The main change is that the new edition of the Standard specifies the requirements for optional on-site screening. The revision also provides additional requirements for collection procedures, laboratory screening procedures and quantitative laboratory confirmatory procedures.

ITSRR is reviewing AS/NZS 4308:2008 to determine the amendments that need to be made to the Regulation. It is anticipated the amendments will be effective from 1 July 2008.

It is expected that the substantial amendments to the Regulation will include the amendment of:

- the requirement of AS/NZS 4308:2001 for both initial laboratory testing and confirmatory tests to be performed in the same laboratory (clause 17(5)(b)). This is not a requirement of AS/NZS 4308:2008.
- the period of 12 months allowed for a person from whom a positive sample is taken to arrange for a portion of the sample to be analysed, at their own expense, at an approved laboratory (clause 17(6)). AS/NZS 4308:2008 requires samples which have a positive confirmatory test result to be stored by the laboratory for at least three months, instead of the 12 months required by AS/NZS 4308:2001.

It should be noted, however, that the two requirements of AS/NZS 4308:2001 outlined above should be complied with until the Regulation is amended to reflect the changes to the Standard.

Therefore, until the Regulation is amended, accredited railway operators should ensure that:

- both initial laboratory testing and confirmatory tests are performed in the same laboratory; and
- the laboratories performing the confirmatory tests continue to store positive test samples taken from rail safety workers for 12 months.



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