

Problematic Substance Use Testing

IFALPA fully supports an aviation industry free of substance abuse, particularly for those whose professional responsibilities are safety sensitive in nature. Quite often the workplace is one of the last places where substance abuse is noticed. Family members, friends and colleagues most often will have noticed the problem during leisure time before it becomes evident in the work environment. At this stage peer intervention programs are an effective means of intervention and prevention as opposed to the problematic substance-use testing programs in the workplace. Testing programs introduced as a reaction to political pressure create the false perception that such testing improves safety.

IFALPA does not support random testing. However, IFALPA fully supports the more effective peer intervention programs for the identification of problematic substance use with the goal of treatment and return to work.

In the event that an authority or operator elects to implement substance use testing programs, such programs should be limited to:

- Pre-Employment Testing
- Post-Accident Testing
- Reasonable Suspicion Testing*

While IFALPA does not support random testing it recognizes that some states have or may implement such a program. IFALPA's position is that any random testing program that is implemented should be based on careful use of procedures that have been agreed on in advance such that the program respects the privacy and dignity of those being tested and ensures a high degree of reliability. Further information on procedures to be used for random testing can be found in the accompanying IFALPA Briefing Leaflet Problematic Substance Use Testing.

Note: The ICAO Manual on Prevention of Problematic Use of Substances in the Aviation Workplace (Doc. 9654) contains guidelines that should be followed if any kind of testing is introduced.

*See corresponding [IFALPA Briefing Leaflet Problematic Substance Use Testing](#) for guidance on use of reasonable suspicion testing.