

Impairment free:

Controlled substances

Use this guide to help lead a discussion with employees to raise awareness about the dangers of being under the influence, specifically related to controlled substances. Empower them with strategies to minimize risks and become safer drivers. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

Controlled substances refer to a specific list of drugs that must be tested for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers under 49 CFR Part 40. These substances include:

- Marijuana
- Cocaine
- Opiates (including opium and codeine derivatives)
- Amphetamines and methamphetamines
- Phencyclidine

Despite the legalization of marijuana at the state level in many states, it remains classified as a controlled substance for Department of Transportation (DOT) drug testing. Commercial Driver's License (CDL) commercial motor vehicle operators who test positive for marijuana can face consequences, including the removal of their operating privileges.

1 Marijuana prohibitions for operators:

- Ensure drivers are well-informed about the prohibitions regarding marijuana use.
- Marijuana remains illegal under the Federal Drug Testing Program for CMV drivers.
- Carrying marijuana in a CMV is a violation, even if legal at the state level.

2 Positive drug tests and metabolites:

- Metabolites of THC (the active compound in marijuana) can linger in the body for days or weeks after use.
- Positive tests, even from off-duty consumption, can lead to removal from safety-sensitive functions (like driving).

3 Immediate removal and substance abuse evaluation:

- Any positive drug test necessitates immediate removal from all safety-sensitive functions, including driving.
- Drivers with positive tests must undergo evaluation and treatment by a Substance Abuse Professional.
- Some companies may assist with treatment costs, but the FMCSA does not mandate this—placing responsibility on the driver.

4 National Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse:

- All positive test results are posted on the National Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse. Prospective employers must check this repository before hiring any commercial driver.

5 Controlled substances and legal implications:

- Controlled substances are illegal. Mere possession of these substances can lead to criminal convictions for drivers.
- Convictions may affect access to ports, pipelines, and certain clearances required for their job.

For additional information related to driver safety, visit MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5

For further guidance, refer to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration 49 CFR Part 382 (ecfr.gov/current/title-49/part-382).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.

NationwideAgribusiness.com

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Toolbox Talk

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Discussion notes:
