

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) today published a Final Notice of Revisions to its Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs (Guidelines). The Guidelines establish the scientific and technical guidelines for the Federal workplace drug testing programs and establish standards for certification of laboratories engaged in drug testing for Federal agencies by addressing the collection and testing of urine specimens, the requirements for the certification of Instrumented Initial Test Facilities (IITFs), and the role of and standards for collectors and Medical Review Officers (MROs).

Additional notices of Proposed Revisions to the Mandatory Guidelines addressing the use of point of collection testing (POCT), oral fluid testing, sweat patch testing, hair testing, and associated issues will be published at a later date. With regard to the use of alternative specimens including hair, oral fluid, and sweat patch specimens in Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) feels that this requires further examination, and may require additional study and analysis. HHS plans to issue a notice in the Federal Register requesting information and assistance from the general public to provide or identify data and research findings that address specific areas of interest.

The effective date on the published revisions states March 25, 2008, however, DATIA is contacting SAMHSA to determine the correct date as page 71859 indicates that the effective date is 18 months from the publication date (November 25, 2008). Based on the latter, the effective date would be May 25, 2010.

DATIA is currently reviewing the new guidelines and will provide more information to its members after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Read the full SAMHSA Press Release

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0811213700.aspx>

Read the full Revised Guidelines

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26726.htm>