

Drug Program Bits and Pieces for 2019

REMEMBER! According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, operators of motor graders and front-end loaders used on roads to remove snow and/or leaves do not need to obtain a CDL and are not subject to random drug and alcohol testing. This interpretation may affect whom you enroll in the program if you have previously enrolled emergency snow removal drivers. Please note that this only applies to operators of motor graders and front-end loaders used to remove snow and/or leaves. Trucks with snow blades having a gross combination weight or a gross vehicle weight of 26,001 lbs or more require the operator to be enrolled in the program **whether they are full time or part time employees.**

Random Testing for Seasonal Drivers: If a driver is “seasonal” and not working at all that month he/she is chosen, is off on medical leave, is on active military duty, is off on workman’s comp or laid off, then you **must contact Pam at TOI** and the driver will not have to be tested for that month. But, **contact TOI immediately so the test can be cancelled,** and you will be instructed what to do.

ALSO! Townships can share vehicles/drivers as long as each township has a FMCSA drug & alcohol testing program. The drivers only need to be in the random pool for the township they are employed by. However, if a driver is a part-time employee of Township A and a part-time employee of Township B, then the driver must be in the random pool for both townships.

Reasonable Suspicion: It is mandatory that highway commissioners that have employees who drive trucks that weigh 26,001 lbs. or more, go through a reasonable suspicion (RS) supervisor training that includes 1 hour on alcohol misuse and 1 hour on controlled substances use. They can view a DVD, listen on a webinar, or go to a classroom training as long as it covers the 2 hours as stated above. **EXCEPTION:** If the highway commissioner is the boss and the only driver, he or she does NOT have to go through the RS training.

Snow Emergency: An employee of a township or road district with a population of less than 3,000 operating a vehicle within the boundaries of the township or road district for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway by plowing, sanding, or salting may hire a driver who is not covered in the program to help with a particular snow emergency because the regular employee who is covered under the program is unable to operate the vehicle or is in need of additional assistance due to the snow emergency. This does not mean that every time there is a snow you may use this additional person. If you use this driver as an on-call when needed basis, they should be enrolled in the program even though they are not full-time employees. If they are called for a random test and they are not working that month, they may be excused from being tested that month. However, if they work just one hour/day of that month, they must be tested if called to do so. See page 141 and/or page 309 of the Laws and Duties Handbook (Revised 2013).

CDL Information: **Did you respond to Midwest Truckers request for CDL information on each of your drivers? If you have not responded, please take a minute and get that back to Midwest Truckers or send in with your renewal and I’ll see they get the information.**

Audits: Federal and state auditors are contacting employers checking on compliance with federal requirements. If you are contacted by a compliance auditor and do not have the necessary information, call the Consortium office at 217/525-0310 before or while the auditor is present. The Consortium staff will talk to the auditor and assist in providing the necessary information and forms.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call Pam at TOI (866/897-4688). A phone call can save both you and TOI lots of work and time.