

Drugs and alcohol standard update (NR/L2/OHS/00120) (Summary for Supply Chain)

Why has the Drugs & Alcohol (D&A) standard been updated?

- Better protect the safety of our colleagues, contractors and passengers – in line with our lifesaving rule
- Continue to comply with the [Transport and Works Act 1992](#)
- Provide better support for internal colleagues who have D&A misuse concerns
- Random D&A failures within Network Rail have increased and the D&A failure rate is even higher across the Supply Chain:

Year	Network Rail	Supply Chain
2020/21	0.9 %	1.3 %

What's changing and why?

What's changing?	Why?
20 % of all safety critical colleagues will be randomly selected for a D&A test each year (up from 5 % of safety-critical colleagues)	To increase the likelihood of any colleague being randomly tested
Drugs tests can be conducted using Point of Contact Testing (POCT) or back to laboratory testing (BTL)	POCT may quickly identify employees who are safe and fit to continue working and those who could have a substance in their body (safety risk)
Ketamine and Tramadol have been added to the substance testing panel. Propoxyphene has been removed.	Ketamine and Tramadol can have psychoactive effects and have addictive properties. These two substances are trending in misuse.

What are the consequences of a positive D&A test, or refusing a test?

- Subject to disciplinary processes and procedure (all)
- Personal Track Safety (PTS) certificate and permission to work in a safety critical capacity on NR managed infrastructure revoked for five years (all)
- Sentinel card (passport to work on the railway) cancelled for five years (Sentinel card holders)
- Job offer rescinded (prospective Safety Critical candidates only)

Let's all be clear - next steps:

- Familiarise yourself with further information and guidance hosted on this [page](#)
- Download and read the standard [here](#)
- D&A misuse concerns? Please speak to your manager and/or visit our company's website to understand the support available.
- Questions or feedback? Contact Network Rail health and wellness team on healthandwellness@networkrail.co.uk