

Section II. Identifying Employees Needing To Be Tested

Who are safety-sensitive employees and why are they tested?

Pilots, truck drivers, subway operators, ship captains, pipeline controllers, airline mechanics, locomotive engineers, and bus drivers are just some of the transportation workers that we depend upon to be as clear-headed and as alert as possible at all times. As a safety agency, the DOT can demand nothing less. Use of illegal drugs and misuse of alcohol are not compatible with performing these vital functions. The history of our program began with some fatal accidents that illegal drug use or alcohol misuse helped to cause. Congress passed a law – the Omnibus Transportation Employees Testing Act of 1991 – that requires DOT Agencies to test safety-sensitive transportation workers.

This table lists the types of safety-sensitive duties subject to DOT drug and alcohol testing:

Transportation Industry	Safety-Sensitive Duties
Commercial Motor Carriers (FMCSA)	Commercial Drivers License (CDL) holders who operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle.
Aviation (FAA)	Flight crew, flight attendants, flight instructors; air traffic controllers at facilities not operated by the FAA or under contract to the U.S. military; aircraft dispatchers; aircraft maintenance or preventative maintenance personnel; ground security coordinators, aviation screeners, and operations control specialists.
Railroad (FRA)	Persons who perform duties subject to the Hours of Service laws; such as, locomotive engineers, trainmen, conductors, switchmen, locomotive hostlers/helpers, utility employees, signalmen, operators and train dispatchers.
Public Transportation (FTA)	Operators of revenue service vehicles, CDL-holding operators of non-revenue service vehicles, vehicle controllers, revenue service vehicle mechanics, firearm-carrying security personnel.
Pipeline (PHMSA)	Persons who perform operations, maintenance, or emergency response function on a pipeline or LNG facility regulated under part 192, 193, or 195.
Maritime (USCG) [Follows Part 40 for drug testing, <u>not</u> alcohol testing.]	Crewmembers operating a commercial vessel.