

Safety Alert

To: All EGT Apprentices and Supervising Electrical Workers

From: Paul Laycock, OSH Advisor

CC: Field Officers

Date: 20 April 2009

Re: **Drugs and Alcohol**

SA15

Electrical Group Training (EGT) is committed to providing a safe, healthy and productive workplace for all its employees and recognises that drug and alcohol misuse has the potential to put its employees, Host employers, general public and company property at risk. The purpose of this Safety Alert is to bring to your attention EGT's ongoing commitment to random testing of our employees to ensure that they are not under the influence of prohibited substances whilst at work.

The current ongoing testing has produced some pleasing results with very few positive results for illegal substances being detected.

Over the last seven months EGT has conducted 267 drug tests resulting in 8 apprentices being suspended and 3 Apprenticeships cancelled.

One concern that has arisen from positive results is apprentices claiming that someone else has spiked their drinks, unbeknown to them. Although there is always a possibility of this occurring, EGT cannot accept drink spiking as a reason for a positive result unless the incident has been reported to the police prior to the drug test.

A further concern is that a few apprentices have presented for testing with extremely dilute urine presumably after drinking large quantities of water. This usually results in the need for further testing and causes an increase in lost productive time and inconveniences hosts more than necessary.

In order to improve the quality of the testing, EGT field officers will be insisting apprentices accompany them to a test station on the day of testing and then returning them to site once the testing has been completed. This off-site time will also be used as part of a routine Field visit requirements.

It is important for you to remember Drugs and Alcohol are just as much a risk to you as any other work place hazard and it is you who must assess the risk associated with their use and remember that there is the possibility that they could cost you your job, your future livelihood and your freedom.

It is your decision whether you use drugs or not, and it is EGT's duty under the Occupational Safety and Health Act to ensure that you and your work colleagues have a safe working environment and that you are fit for work.