

## 2020 FMCSA DRUG TESTING FAQ



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
Administration**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) announced that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) random controlled substances testing percentage rate will double for the 2020 calendar year.

This will have a large impact on the transportation industry, so we provided answers to some of the most important questions.

### 1 HOW MUCH WILL IT INCREASE?

The minimum annual percentage rate for random drug testing will increase from 25% to a new rate of 50%.

### 2 WHEN DOES IT GO INTO EFFECT?

This change is effective as of January 1, 2020 and applies to the 2020 calendar year.

### 3 WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?

It applies to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) requiring a commercial driver's license (CDL). This will not affect the Federal Aviation Administration.

### 4 DID ANYTHING ELSE CHANGE?

No. Although the random controlled substance testing rates have changed, the annual random alcohol testing percentage will remain at 10%.

### 5 WHY IS IT CHANGING?

The regulation occurred in response to rising positive drug-testing rates. The FMCSA minimum percentage must increase when the reporting data for a calendar year reflects a positive rate of 1.0% or greater. In 2018, the annual survey reported a positive rate of 1.0%.

### 6 HOW DOES ANYONE KEEP TRACK OF IT?

Beginning January 6, 2020, the FMCSA will open access to the Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse – a secure online database with real-time information about CDL holders' drug and alcohol program violations. To learn more, see the factsheet here: <https://bit.ly/2ZOGbA9>.

### 7 HOW WILL IT AFFECT THE INDUSTRY?

Doubling the testing rate also doubles the costs of performing tests. The FMCSA estimates that it will cost the trucking industry between \$50 million and \$70 million in order to conduct additional tests.

### 8 WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

The percentage increase announcement from the Federal Register can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2tr76pO>. For the official DOT notice, click here: <https://bit.ly/2QIMUYn>.