

Under CASR Part 99 — Any individual who performs safety sensitive aviation activities, including flight and cabin crew, flying instructors, aircraft dispatchers, aircraft maintenance, aviation security, air traffic controllers, baggage handlers, ground refuellers and private and student pilots, may be requested by an approved tester to undertake an alcohol and/or drug test. The testing scheme excludes passengers.

Who conducts testing?

Testing will be conducted by an independent provider, on behalf of CASA. Testing can occur in any location where aviation activities occur, including regional, rural and remote airstrips, flying schools, and maintenance organisations.

CASA random testing samples will be collected in accordance with the relevant CASA regulations. Breath samples will be tested for alcohol, in much the same way as tests are currently performed on road users. Oral fluid samples (saliva) will be tested for other drugs.

What drugs will be tested for?

- > Alcohol
- > Amphetamines (Speed, Ice, Ecstasy)
- > Cannabis
- > Cocaine
- > Opiates (Heroin, Morphine, Codeine).

What is the permitted level?

The permitted level for alcohol and drugs is effectively zero.

Alcohol: 0.02 (0.02% BAC-Breath alcohol concentration)

Drug: See CASR Amendment 2008 [No. 3] Select Legislative Instrument, for specific drugs.

These levels provide definitive evidence of the consumption of alcohol or a testable drug. Aircraft crew and air traffic controllers must not have alcohol or other drugs before duty.

What happens if I refuse or test positive?

If, when the testing occurs, you refuse, or the confirmatory alcohol or initial drug test is positive, you will be required to cease performing safety sensitive aviation activities immediately. It will be an offence to recommence any activities until you have been cleared to return.

If an oral fluid sample is positive for drugs, that sample will be sent to an accredited laboratory under strict controls for further analysis.

All positive drug test results will be reviewed by a medical review officer to determine if the result was due to legitimate therapeutic treatment.

A confirmed positive test result or failure to comply with a request to undergo a test, may result in the individual committing an offence under the CASRs.

Additional action will depend on the circumstances, and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. It may include assessment and treatment by a health care professional and further testing.