



# ODAPC Dispatches

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*Our Mission:*

*To ensure the safety of the traveling public; reduce the demand for illicit drugs; deter the use of illicit drugs & the misuse of alcohol in the transportation industry; and create prevention & treatment opportunities for transportation employers & employees.*

## **Nuts & Bolts of Continuing Education for Substance Abuse Professionals (SAPs)**

While most SAPs know they have three years from the date they passed their qualification examinations to obtain 12 hours of continuing education (ed) related to their SAP duties, many have called with questions on the exact requirements.

Of course, SAPs need continuing ed in order to keep current on program requirements and issues, and this continuing ed must involve a test or other assessment tool to help determine whether SAPs have successfully learned the materials.

Here are the five nuts & bolts of SAP continuing ed requirements:

1. SAPs must earn 12 professional development hours – normally, continuing education units – every three years.
2. Continuing ed must be relevant to performance of SAP functions.
3. Continuing ed must cover (but is not limited to covering) the following items:
  - a. New drug & alcohol abuse evaluation technologies.
  - b. Current DOT interpretations / Q&As about the SAP job.
  - c. Recent SAP guidance from the DOT.
  - d. DOT regulation changes and other information about developments in the SAP function in the DOT program. For instance, a recent *ODAPC Dispatches* talked about the connection between depression & substance abuse and the importance of depression assessment. To see the complete article visit <http://www.dot.gov/ost/dapc/news.html>.
4. Continuing ed must provide a documental assessment of how well the SAP learned the materials.
5. SAPs must maintain documentation demonstrating their compliance with the continuing ed requirements.

A list of some of the SAP training resources appears on our website at: <http://www.dot.gov/ost/dapc/sap.html>

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## **Fixes for Where Regulations Meet the Real World**

**The Problem:** An employee arrives at the collection site with a single Federal CCF, and you begin the collection process. The employee provides a specimen that requires an immediate second collection under direct observation. The problem is that you don't have another employer specific Federal CCF to complete the second collection because the employer provides its employees with CCFs as needed. What do you do?

**The Fix:** As a collection site, you probably have many Federal CCFs from different employers and laboratories. Find an unused Federal CCF (preferably from the same laboratory as the original CCF) and legibly write in the correct employer, MRO, laboratory name and account information, and proceed with the direct observation collection. Ship the specimens from both collections to the employer's contracted laboratory.

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## **ODAPC Advisor Receives 9/11 Award from the Secretary**

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta awarded ODAPC Senior Policy Advisor Mark Snider with the Transportation 9/11 Ribbon Award. Along with other DOT employees, Mark Snider received this award due to his service to the Department's Crisis Management Center during and after the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

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## **Name Change to FRA's Post-Accident Testing Laboratory**

The laboratory designated by FRA regulations to conduct post-accident testing has changed its name and address from Northwest Toxicology (NWT Inc.) to:

Northwest Toxicology/LabOne.  
Hayes Building, Suite C  
2282 South Presidents Drive  
West Valley City, UT 84120

The FRA issued a Final Rule in the Federal Register (FR 16966) to reflect the changes. See <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html>

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## **FTA Updates Reasonable Suspicion Training Video Guide**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) had updated its guide book to its Reasonable Suspicion Training video for supervisors. The guide can be viewed and/or downloaded from the FTA site at <http://transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov/Safety/datesting/ReasonableSuspicion.asp>