



PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

JAN 26 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FORMANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY FOR MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE FOR MANPOWER
AND RESERVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Update to the Department of Defense Drug Testing Panel: Change in Cutoff for Codeine

The Department is changing the codeine cutoff from 2,000 ng/mL to 4,000 ng/mL for the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program (MPDATP). The effective date is March 4, 2024. The MPDATP suspended codeine reporting on January 20, 2023, following concerns that a substantially lower amount of poppy seed consumption than previously known could result in a positive codeine urinalysis test.

Attached are the cutoff concentrations for reporting positive results for codeine, as well as for other substances on the drug testing panel. The change includes the addition of a reflex screening test for thebaine, an opioid produced by the poppy plant that can be used as a urinary marker of poppy seed ingestion. Specimens containing 4,000 ng/mL to 10,000 ng/mL codeine will be reported negative if thebaine is also present at a concentration of ≥ 5 ng/mL. All pending codeine positives since January 20, 2023 will be reported based on the new codeine cutoff and thebaine reflex screen. These changes significantly reduce the risk of a codeine-positive result from the normal consumption of food products containing poppy seeds.

This memorandum hereby amends the applicable testing panel tables in Department of Defense Instruction 1010.16, "Technical Procedures for the Military Personnel Drug Abuse Testing Program," accordingly.

My point of contact for this action is Captain Erin Wilfong at (571) 236-1766 or erin.r.wilfong.mil@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashish S. Vazirani".

Ashish S. Vazirani
Acting

Attachment:
As stated

**CUTOFF CONCENTRATIONS IN THE
MILITARY DRUG ABUSE TESTING PROGRAM**

INITIAL TESTING CUTOFF CONCENTRATIONS

Drug Class	Cutoff nanograms/milliliter (ng/mL)*
Amphetamines	500
Designer Amphetamines	500
Benzodiazepines	200
Cannabinoids	50
Synthetic Cannabinoids	10
Cocaine Metabolites	150
LSD	0.5
Opioids (Morphine / Codeine)	4,000
Opioids (Thebaine)**	5
Opioids (Heroin metabolite 6-monoacetylmorphine)	10
Opioids (Oxycodone / Oxymorphone)	100
Opioids (Hydrocodone / Hydromorphone)	300
Opioids (Fentanyl / Norfentanyl)	1.0
<p>*Value given is immunoassay (IA) cutoff. For mass-spectrometry (MS) based screening, the confirmation cutoff below will be used, when technically possible.</p> <p>**Reflux screen only - required for codeine confirmation tests 4,000-10,000 ng/mL; specimen reported codeine negative if thebaine is present at or above cutoff</p>	

CONFIRMATION CUTOFF CONCENTRATIONS

Initial Presumptive Positive Test	Confirmation Drug / Metabolite	Cutoff (ng/mL)	Reported Drug Use
Amphetamines	d-Amphetamine	100	d-Amphetamine
	d-Methamphetamine	100	d-Methamphetamine
Designer Amphetamines	3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine	500	3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine
	3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine	500	3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine
Benzodiazepines	Lorazepam	100	Lorazepam
	Nordiazepam	100	Nordiazepam
	Oxazepam	100	Oxazepam
	Temazepam	100	Temazepam
	α -hydroxy-Alprazolam	100	α - hydroxy-alprazolam
Cannabinoids	11-nor- Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid	15	11-nor- Δ 9-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid
	11-nor- Δ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid	15	11-nor- Δ 8-tetrahydrocannabinol-9-carboxylic acid
Synthetic Cannabinoids	Illicit synthetic cannabinoids derived from the following classes of compounds:		
	Naphthoylindole cannabinoids	1.0	Synthetic cannabinoid (SYCAN)
	Alkoylindole cannabinoids	1.0	SYCAN
	Indole carboxylate cannabinoids	1.0	SYCAN
	Indole carboxamide cannabinoids	1.0	SYCAN
	Indazole carboxamide cannabinoids	1.0	SYCAN
	Including indene, pyrrole, benzimidazole, azaindole, naphthalene, thiazolidene, carbazole, pyrrolo-benzoxazine, adamantoyl, and other cannabinoid derivatives	1.0	SYCAN
Cocaine Metabolites	Benzoyllecgonine	100	Cocaine
LSD	LSD	0.2	LSD
	2-oxo-3-hydroxy-LSD	0.2	LSD
Opioids	Morphine	4,000	Morphine
	Codeine	4,000	Codeine
	6-monoacetylmorphine	10	Heroin
	Oxycodone	100	Oxycodone
	Oxymorphone	100	Oxymorphone
	Hydrocodone	100	Hydrocodone
	Hydromorphone	100	Hydromorphone
Opioids, Cocaine Metabolites*	Fentanyl	1.0	Fentanyl
	Norfentanyl	1.0	Norfentanyl

*Either from initial screening (IA or MS-based) or from adjunct screening (IA or MS-based) triggered by cocaine metabolites or opioids presumptive-positive initial screening.