

CATEGORY H ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

1. It is generally known that one-half or more of the of the highway accidents, injuries and fatalities are related to the use of alcohol. Chronic users of alcohol cause more fatal accidents than the combination of all other drivers with medical problems. Hence, an awareness of problems caused by alcohol is essential to the proper granting of driving privileges.
2. Use of other problem causing drugs, whether obtained legally or illegally, can impair a person's driving ability. The nature of these substances is such that continued use creates problems which are recognizable and require special attention in licensing drivers.
3. Users of alcohol and other drugs are well known for their tendency not to report or under-report amounts used. There is a wide individual variation in the effects of such substances. Hence, about the only valid basis for evaluating an applicant's probable safety as a driver is careful appraisal of the person's history including, but not limited to, the past effect upon driving.
4. Adverse personal consequences of alcohol and drug use include:
 - a. Physical dependence or withdrawal symptoms;
 - b. Medical or neurological findings associated with effects of alcohol or drug use upon the nervous system or other organs;
 - c. A history of alcohol or drug related behavioral change indicated by fighting, physical abuse or mood and personality instability;
 - d. History of alcohol or drug related vehicular accidents or trauma;
 - e. Convictions involving alcohol.
5. The interaction of prescribed psychoactive medications (antidepressants, benzodiazepines, neuroleptics, sedatives, hypnotics) even when taken in appropriate doses with or without alcohol or illicit drugs may hamper driving ability.
6. Users of mood altering and hallucinogenic drugs are next to users of alcohol in traffic violations. In addition, untoward drug-related experiences, such as flashbacks, or substance withdrawal seizures may be hazardous to driving. Not only "street" drugs (e.g., marijuana, methamphetamine, cocaine, inhalants, etc.), but also prescription or over-the-counter drugs (benzodiazepines, barbiturates, antihistamines, antipsychotics, antidepressants, sedative hypnotics, muscle relaxants, opiates, etc.) may increase the likelihood of accident, especially when used in combination with alcohol.
7. There is increasing evidence that marijuana may affect driving by causing changes in depth perception, unpredictable alteration of reaction time, illusions of distance, impairment of accuracy of sensory perception, impairment of judgment and periodic lapses of attention, acutely as well as after chronic use. Marijuana, or other drugs, may impair driving even several days after cessation of use.
8. Health care professionals should be alert to the fact that those with substance problems tend to visit them more often than the average, often with vague or non-specific complaints. Patterns that suggest substance abuse include: gastrointestinal symptoms, often atypical; injuries or burns of vague causation; neurologic symptoms; general medical or flu-like symptoms, hypertension or skin problems; psychiatric symptoms, including depression; social maladjustment and interpersonal and work difficulties; and family health problems. Inquiry may lead to a clearer picture of the problem and temporary limiting of driving for the benefit of the public as well as the patient.

9. Many young or inexperienced drivers are unaware of the high risks of driving associated with the use of alcohol, especially when mixed with other substances. Making factual information regarding drugs and alcohol and their effects on driving available to young drivers may help them to make safer choices. Health care professionals can effectively help in these educational efforts.

10. **COMMERCIAL INTRASTATE DRIVERS:** New applicants for a K restriction are not accepted. Drivers currently in the K restriction program who are given the same safety assessment level are subject to periodic reviews and MAB approval. Functional Ability Forms submitted with a different safety assessment level for existing drivers currently on the K restriction program must be submitted to the MAB for approval.

CATEGORY H: ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

PRIVATE

Safety Assessment Level	Circumstances	Medical Report Required	Interval for Review	License Class and Restrictions
1	No history of alcoholic beverages or inappropriate use of drugs or adverse personal or social consequences, with related moving violations or at-fault accidents or convictions within past two (2) years ^{b c}	No	N/A	Private vehicles
2	No history of alcoholic beverages or inappropriate use of drugs or adverse personal or social consequences, with related moving violations or at-fault accidents or convictions within the past year ^{a b}	Yes	1 year	Private vehicles
3	No history of alcoholic beverages or inappropriate use of drugs or adverse personal or social consequences, with related moving violations or at-fault accidents or convictions within the past six (6) months ^{a b d}	Yes	6 months ^a	Private vehicles; with physician's statement, with demonstration of compliance, or with recognized medical tests
4	Alcohol or drug use with no adverse personal or social consequences within the past three (3) months ^{b c d}	Yes	3 months ^a	Private vehicles; with physician's statement, with demonstration of compliance, or with recognized medical tests
5	Alcohol or other drug use with no adverse personal or social consequences within the past one (1) month ^{b c d}	Yes	3 months ^a	Private vehicles; with demonstration of drug or alcohol abstinence by recognized medical tests
6	Use of alcohol or drugs, with intermittent impairment of function, but not during driving or working hours	Yes	3 months ^a	Private vehicles; recommended restrictions of speed, area, and daylight only. TBD by examiner
7	Special circumstances not covered above, or under evaluation	Yes	3 months ^a	Private vehicles; special restrictions as recommended by health care professional
8	Chronic use of alcohol or other drugs with impairment of motor and/or intellectual functions	Yes	N/A	No driving

a Or as recommended by health care professional, longer or shorter interval according to stability, up to a maximum period of 5 years

b See narrative for examples of adverse consequences

c Drug abuse means any use of illicit drugs or inappropriate use of prescription or non-prescription drugs

d Random blood alcohol, random urine or hair drug analysis are not mandatory, but could be considered to document compliance with requirements

**CATEGORY H: ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS
COMMERCIAL**

Safety Assessment Level	Circumstances	Medical Report Required	Interval for Review	License Class and Restrictions
1	No history of alcoholic beverages or inappropriate use of drugs or adverse personal or social consequences, with related moving violations or at-fault accidents or convictions within past two (2) years ^{a b}	No	N/A	Commercial unrestricted
2	No history of alcoholic beverages or inappropriate use of drugs or adverse personal or social consequences, with related moving violations or at-fault accidents or convictions within the past year ^{a b}	Yes	1 year	Commercial unrestricted
3	No history of alcoholic beverages or inappropriate use of drugs or adverse personal or social consequences, with related moving violations or at-fault accidents or convictions within the past six (6) months ^{a b d}	Yes	6 months	No commercial driving
4	Alcohol or drug use with no adverse personal or social consequences within the past three (3) months ^{b c}	Yes	3 months ^a	No commercial driving
5	Alcohol or other drug use with no adverse personal or social consequences within the past one (1) month ^{b c}	Yes	3 months ^a	No commercial driving
6	Use of alcohol or drugs, with intermittent impairment of function, but not during driving or working hours	Yes	3 months ^a	No commercial driving
7	Special circumstances not covered above, or under evaluation	Yes	3 months	Special restrictions recommended by health care professional and approved by MAB
8	Chronic use of alcohol or other drugs with impairment of motor and/or intellectual functions	Yes	N/A	No driving

a Or as recommended by health care professional, longer or shorter interval according to stability, up to a maximum period of 5 years

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