

# Drug and Alcohol Testing in a Single, On-site Oral Fluid Device

**R**etailers often face difficult situations with workplace violence, on-the-job accidents, employee turnover, and inventory shrinkage. Almost all loss prevention professionals recognize the importance of a good drug-and-alcohol-testing program in deterring workplace drug abuse. Many studies have shown workplace drug screening increases productivity, reduces absenteeism, and enhances safety.

The demand to improve employee safety and workplace productivity has increasingly led LP professionals to consider the use of rapid on-site testing products. With on-site products employers can conduct an initial drug and alcohol screen at the job site and have a result in a matter of minutes.

At present, urinalysis testing is the most popular method used for on-site testing. Some employers, however, have been reluctant to perform on-site urinalysis testing. In order to collect urine specimens, a toilet facility has to be set aside for that purpose. Furthermore, due to the possibility of urine specimen tampering, a same-sex observer is often required during donation, thus raising privacy issues. There is also a natural reluctance on the part of employers to handle urine specimens. As a result, employers who need and would like to have an immediate result shy away from on-site urinalysis.

Recent advances in technology have presented a solution to this problem. New on-site saliva drug-and-alcohol tests now allow employers to obtain the rapid results they need without having the concerns of handling a urine specimen. With saliva testing, there is a reduced chance for tampering because the collection process is easily observed. Saliva specimens can be obtained non-invasively without the requirement of a toilet facility or the presence of a same gender observer. In addition, since saliva drug concentrations correlate better with serum drug levels than urine drug levels, saliva is a better indicator for a person under the influence.

## Features of OratectPlus

OratectPlus™ from Branan Medical Corporation is the first test device to combine drugs plus alcohol in a single device. Never before has there been a test that can detect drugs plus alcohol on the same device.

By simply having the applicant swab their mouth with the test device, drug-and-alcohol initial test results can be available in minutes. OratectPlus simultaneously tests for six drugs, including marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamine, methamphetamine/ecstasy, and either PCP or benzodiazepines plus alcohol.



The test device consists of a collection pad on one end, two test panels in the middle for the drug results, and a separate pad for the alcohol result. The test protocol entails swabbing the collection pad inside the mouth until blue lines in the test panels start to flow, indicating a sufficient amount of saliva has been collected. The presence of a red line corresponding to a specific drug on the panel indicates a negative result, while the absence of a red line indicates a presumptive positive result. A color change from white to green, blue, or gray indicates a presumptive positive alcohol result. With a presumptive positive result, the collection pad is detached from the device and sent to a SAMHSA laboratory for further testing, allowing confirmation of the on-site result without the drawing of another sample.

## Benefits of OratectPlus

- OratectPlus offers many loss prevention benefits:
- One-step collection and testing
- Eliminates transfer of specimen to a separate device
- Eliminates the need to handle a urine specimen
- Minimize sample adulteration and contamination
- Flow of blue lines indicate sufficient saliva collection
- Longer reading time
- Increased sensitivity
- Eliminates need for restroom facilities
- No cross-gender collection issues

With OratectPlus loss prevention professionals may have the answer they have been waiting for.

For more information about Branan Medical Corporation's OratectPlus, visit [www.brananmedical.com](http://www.brananmedical.com) or call 866-468-3287. ■