

ALCOHOL POLICY STATEMENT

The Division of Criminal Investigation Laboratory changed their policy regarding the proper collection of urine for urine alcohol (UA) analysis. This change took place on 01/01/2008.

Due to biological and physiological factors that influence the integrity of a urine sample we are requiring the urine sample be placed in a test tube with the preservative sodium fluoride (NaF) at a concentration of 100 mg. This urine sample will be used by the laboratory for the urine alcohol analysis.

661—157.3(321J) Urine collection (1/2021). A peace officer who collects a sample of a subject's urine for the purpose of determining alcohol or drug concentration shall proceed as follows.

157.3(1) The collection shall be made in the presence of a peace officer or other reliable person under the supervision of a peace officer. The peace officer or other person in the presence of the subject shall be of the same gender as the subject.

157.3(2) As soon as practicable, the subject shall urinate into a urine alcohol kit-supplied bottle, cup or other suitable container which is clean, dry, and free from any visible contamination. Anticoagulant and antimicrobial substances in a blood or urine kit do not constitute visible contamination.

157.3(3) The peace officer shall collect a second urine void for alcohol testing in a suitable container which is clean, dry, and free from visible contamination. If a second void cannot be collected, the peace officer shall submit a sample from the first void and shall inform the Iowa division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory on the laboratory receipt form that the sample is from a first void. It is not necessary that the subject's bladder be completely emptied.

157.3(4) When collection of the sample for alcohol testing has been completed, the peace officer shall cause a portion of the collected sample to be transferred to a test tube containing 100 milligrams of sodium fluoride and anticoagulant.

157.3(5) A listing of test kits known to meet the requirements of subrules 157.3(2), 157.3(3) and 157.3(4) may be found on the criminalistics laboratory website. Any peace officer wishing to use a test kit which is not listed should inquire of the criminalistics laboratory as to whether the other test kit meets the requirements. Any provider of test kits may request the addition of a kit to the list by sending a sample kit to the administrator of the criminalistics laboratory with a cover letter requesting that the kit be added to the list of kits known to meet the requirements of this subrule.

157.3(6) If the peace officer requests additional toxicological testing, the remainder of the sample may be retained in a container and sent for analysis to the Iowa division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory.

157.3(7) The peace officer shall label the container showing the date and time the sample was collected and identifying the peace officer, the subject, and the person present during the collection of the sample if other than the peace officer.

All officers should view the video file: "Collecting a Urine Sample for Alcohol Testing Version 1.0" training video on the Crime Laboratory website. After viewing, all officers must fill out the viewing form and email the form to the DCI. The video file and viewing form can be found on the DCI website.

The Code of Iowa defines urine alcohol concentration as grams of alcohol per 67ml of urine. On second void urine samples the Lab will report as stated in the code. If a first void urine sample is submitted, the Lab will report grams per 67 and grams per 57 ml of urine. Grams per 57 ml of urine will be reported by the Lab in order to insure a higher confidence level for first void urine samples.

It is important to correctly collect the sample for a urine alcohol test. If the sample for a UA test is not in the appropriate test tube with the NaF preservative the DCI Lab will not analyze the urine for alcohol concentration in OWI investigations, but will proceed with the toxicological analysis, if requested.

Please understand that this letter is related to urine alcohol testing and does not affect our policy on urine toxicology that includes drugs of abuse and/or prescription drug testing.