§ 40.311 What are the requirements concerning SAP reports?

(a) As the SAP conducting the required evaluations, you must send the written reports required by this section in writing directly to the DER and not to a third party or entity for forwarding to the DER (except as provided in § 40.355(e)). You may, however, forward the document simultaneously to the DER and to a C/TPA.

(b) As an employer, you must ensure that you receive SAP written reports directly from the SAP performing the evaluation and that no third party or entity changed the SAP’s report in any way.

(c) The SAP’s written report, following an initial evaluation that determines what level of assistance is needed to address the employee’s drug and/or alcohol problems, must be on the SAP’s own letterhead (and not the letterhead of another service agent) signed and dated by the SAP, and must contain the following delineated items:

1. Employee’s name and SSN;
2. Employer’s name and address;
3. Reason for the assessment (specific violation of DOT regulations and violation date);
4. Date(s) of the assessment;
5. SAP’s education and/or treatment recommendation; and
6. SAP’s telephone number.

(d) The SAP’s written report concerning a follow-up evaluation that determines the employee has demonstrated successful compliance must be on the SAP’s own letterhead (and not the letterhead of another service agent) signed by the SAP and dated, and must contain the following items:

1. Employee’s name and SSN;
2. Employer’s name and address;
3. Reason for the initial assessment (specific violation of DOT regulations and violation date);
4. Date(s) of the initial assessment and synopsis of the treatment plan;
5. Name of practice(s) or service(s) providing the recommended education and/or treatment;
6. Inclusive dates of employee’s program participation;
7. Clinical characterization of employee’s program participation;
8. SAP’s clinical determination as to whether the employee has demonstrated successful compliance;
9. Follow-up testing plan;
10. Employee’s continuing care needs with specific treatment, aftercare, and or support group services recommendations; and
11. SAP’s telephone number.

(e) The SAP’s written report concerning a follow-up evaluation that determines the employee has not demonstrated successful compliance must be on the SAP’s own letterhead (and not the letterhead of another service agent), signed by the SAP and dated, and must contain the following items:

1. Employee’s name and SSN;
2. Employer’s name and address;
3. Reason for the initial assessment (specific DOT violation and date);
4. Date(s) of initial assessment and synopsis of treatment plan;
5. Name of practice(s) or service(s) providing the recommended education and/or treatment;
6. Inclusive dates of employee’s program participation;
7. Clinical characterization of employee’s program participation;
8. SAP’s clinical reasons for determining that the employee has not demonstrated successful compliance;
9. Follow-up testing plan;
10. Employee’s continuing care needs with specific treatment, aftercare, and/or support group services recommendations; and
11. SAP’s telephone number.

(f) As a SAP, you must also provide these written reports directly to the employee if the employee has no current employer and to the gaining DOT regulated employer in the event the
employee obtains another transportation industry safety-sensitive position.

(g) As a SAP, you are to maintain copies of your reports to employers for 5 years, and your employee clinical records in accordance with Federal, state, and local laws regarding record maintenance, confidentiality, and release of information. You must make these records available, on request, to DOT agency representatives (e.g., inspectors conducting an audit or safety investigation) and representatives of the NTSB in an accident investigation.

(h) As an employer, you must maintain your reports from SAPs for 5 years from the date you received them.

§ 40.313 Where is other information on SAP functions and the return-to-duty process found in this regulation?

You can find other information on the role and functions of SAPs in the following sections of this part:

§ 40.3—Definition.
§ 40.347—Service agent assistance with SAP-required follow-up testing.
§ 40.355—Transmission of SAP reports.
§ 40.329(c)—Making SAP reports available to employees on request.

APPENDIX E TO PART 40—SAP EQUIVALENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATIONS.

Subpart P—Confidentiality and Release of Information

§ 40.321 What is the general confidentiality rule for drug and alcohol test information?

Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, as a service agent or employer participating in the DOT drug or alcohol testing process, you are prohibited from releasing individual test results or medical information about an employee to third parties without the employee’s specific written consent.

(a) A “third party” is any person or organization to whom other subparts of this regulation do not explicitly authorize or require the transmission of information in the course of the drug or alcohol testing process.

(b) “Specific written consent” means a statement signed by the employee that he or she agrees to the release of a particular piece of information to a particular, explicitly identified, person or organization at a particular time. “Blanket releases,” in which an employee agrees to a release of a category of information (e.g., all test results) or to release information to a category of parties (e.g., other employers who are members of a C/TPA, companies to which the employee may apply for employment), are prohibited under this part.

§ 40.323 May program participants release drug or alcohol test information in connection with legal proceedings?

(a) As an employer, you may release information pertaining to an employee’s drug or alcohol test without the employee’s consent in certain legal proceedings.

(1) These proceedings include a lawsuit (e.g., a wrongful discharge action), grievance (e.g., an arbitration concerning disciplinary action taken by the employer), or administrative proceeding (e.g., an unemployment compensation hearing) brought by, or on behalf of, an employee and resulting from a positive DOT drug or alcohol test or a refusal to test (including, but not limited to, adulterated or substituted test results).

(2) These proceedings also include a criminal or civil action resulting from an employee’s performance of safety-sensitive duties, in which a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the drug or alcohol test information sought is relevant to the case and issues an order directing the employer to produce the information. For example, in personal injury litigation following a truck or bus collision, the court could determine that a post-accident drug test result of an employee is relevant to determining whether the driver or the driver’s employer was negligent. The employer is authorized to respond to the court’s order to produce the records.

(b) In such a proceeding, you may release the information to the decisionmaker in the proceeding (e.g., the court in a lawsuit). You may release the information only with a binding stipulation that the decisionmaker to whom it is released will make it available only to parties to the proceeding.