

# DASC Heads up

## 01-06

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### POST INCIDENT DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING (PIDAT)

The Armed Forces Act 2001 Sections 32 & 33 provide powers for the Services to conduct PIDAT and this is to be introduced across Defence on 03 February 2006.

The key points of PIDAT are:

- Those liable for testing include Armed Forces personnel and members of the Reserve Forces when they are subject to Service law. Attached personnel from a different Service, and long term attached exchange officers are also liable.
- S32 provides for the taking of samples of urine or breath. Collection of samples will be by a civilian contractor who will conduct breath tests for alcohol and urine tests for drugs, if called to, by a CO. Although PIDAT may be applied worldwide, it is to be applied only in the UK and home waters at this stage.
- Testing procedures will allow for a wide range of personnel who may have been involved in an incident to be tested. The president of a Board of Inquiry will determine which of those samples are relevant to his investigation.
- The evaluation of the results of a test for alcohol will not be dependent on a prescribed limit. However, regulations for those in specialist roles such as air traffic control and aircrew mandate specific limits on consumption, and time to elapse before reporting for duty. In such cases the test will inform the president of the Board of Inquiry as to the extent to which these regulations have been followed.
- It is for the president of an inquiry, on expert advice, to determine the relevance, if any, that the presence of drugs or alcohol may have had on the cause of the incident/accident.
- Personnel liable for testing who refuse to provide a sample when requested to do so will be liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months.

The MOD has recognised that future collaborative projects with strategic commercial partners will require a harmonised approach in the area of testing for alcohol and drugs. Hence, work will begin immediately to develop policies with the intention of converging and complying with the requirements of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 that our civilian colleagues and employees are already subject to.

The new PIDAT reference will be 2006DIN02-030, and should be consulted for further details.