

## Questions & Answers...

**Question:** Are searches allowed if an employee is suspected of having drugs at the workplace?

**Answer:** Generally, if searches are to be allowed as part of a drug-free workplace program, it is very important that clear guidelines are set out in a written drug-free workplace policy that is shared with ALL employees. Also it is important to be aware of potential privacy concerns if employers choose to search an employee's personal property.

**Question:** What EXACTLY does it mean to be a "drug-free workplace?"

**Answer:** A drug-free workplace is a workplace free of health, safety, and productivity hazards caused by employees' abuse of drugs and/or alcohol. To achieve a drug-free workplace, employers are developing drug-free workplace programs. This program generally includes five components: 1) a drug-free workplace policy; 2) supervisor training; 3) employee education; 4) employee assistance; and 5) drug testing. Some employers may choose NOT to include all components, but research shows that more components lead to a more effective program.

It is important to note that because every business is unique, there is no ONE right way to establish a drug-free workplace program.

Source: [Department of Labor](#)

## More Websites Selling Prescription Drugs

A recent snapshot report found 185 websites selling prescription drugs, the highest number in the three-year history of the research project, and it was noted that 89 percent of the sites did not require a prescription to purchase controlled substances.

The "You've Got Drugs" White Paper released last month by CASA (Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse) at Columbia University found that 30 percent of the sites that did not require a prescription boasted of that fact. Sixty percent offered "online consultations" and 10 percent did not mention prescriptions at all.

The ones that do require a prescription many times allow customers to fax in a prescription, which allows opportunities for forgery and illegally using the same prescription to make multiple purchases.

Some of the drugs available are: Vicodin, OxyContin, Xanax, Librium, Valium, Adderall, and Ritlin. The scary thing is that any child can get these drugs without a prescription from these internet drug pushers.

Only two of the 185 sites found by researchers were certified by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

The same report found 157 prescription-drug websites in 2004; the research was conducted for CASA by Beau Dietl & Associates.

Source: [CASA \(paraphrased\)](#)

## More about Illegal Use of Prescription Drugs...

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) reported in March that the abuse of prescription drugs has become a major problem not just in the U.S., but also in Canada and Mexico. It reported that 10 million illegal shipments of prescription drugs entered the U.S.-where prescription drug abuse now equals the problem of illicit drug abuse--each year.

As mentioned in the previous article, the internet has become a major conduit for shady sales of prescription drugs.

**Prescription Drug Abuse is as serious as alcohol abuse and illegal substance abuse in the workplace. Are you doing all you can do to protect your company from the potentially devastating effects of employee drug and alcohol abuse?**



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