

## **Risk I Drug Screen and Background Investigation Toolkit for Southern Company Generation Contractors**

### **Information for Risk I Drug Screens and Background Investigations:**

- The Southern Company affiliate's Contract Administrator (Contractor's Plant Contact) and Supply Chain Management organization will inform the Contractor of the testing requirements\*\* for its employees, representatives and other individuals working at the plant site on their behalf ("Contract Workers"). The Contractor will then be directed to contact the Drug/Alcohol Testing and Background Investigation Providers for Southern Company Generation.

- **For Initial Account Setup, Ordering Supplies, and Customer Service:**

#### **Drug Testing**

Alere Toxicology Services  
1111 Newton Street  
Gretna, LA 70053  
800-433-3823 Ext. 68601

#### **Background Investigations**

Yale Associates  
1-800-536-5772 ext. 4807  
[SoCoContractors@yaleassociates.com](mailto:SoCoContractors@yaleassociates.com)

- The Provider/s will provide the Contractor with instructions necessary to open an account with the Provider. Account setup may take up to 10 days, so it is important to establish an account well in advance of needing services performed. The Contractor should be sure to let the Provider's know they are doing work for Southern Company Generation
- The Contractor will be responsible for all costs associated with the drug/alcohol tests and/or background investigations of its employees. The Contractor may be reimbursed for any drug/alcohol kits/screenings and/or background investigations that are actually performed by the Provider for Contractor personnel who are classified by the Southern Company affiliate as Risk I with a 15% markup added to these costs. In order to be reimbursed for these services, the Contractor must attach a copy of the invoice from the Provider to the invoice submitted to the Southern Company affiliate. In addition, the Contractor must list charges associated with drug/alcohol testing and background investigation services as a separate line item on the invoice submitted to the Southern Company affiliate. Contractor must have a valid drug test every six months; random drug testing resets 6 month expiration date. **Southern Company Affiliates will only reimburse the contractor for authorized Drug/Alcohol and Background Investigation Services required by contract.**
- The Contractor must use the Provider/Provider's agent for all drug/alcohol testing activities including collection services, laboratory services, and Medical Review Officer Services, as well as background investigations and dispute resolution of results and reports.

- **Boilermaker MOST and Ironworker IMPACT** programs must be used for union Boilermakers and Ironworkers. Contractors should contact MOST and/or IMPACT to get quick test kits and chain of custody forms. MOST and IMPACT will be billed for the cost of testing by the Provider. Contractor should not be billed and should not seek reimbursement. **Southern Company will not reimburse the contractor for Ironworker or Boilermaker drug tests.**
  
- Important: MOST and IMPACT chain of custody forms must be used for this program to work correctly. Please refer to the external website for more information:  
[http://www.southerncompany.com/suppliers/requirements\\_plant\\_access.aspx](http://www.southerncompany.com/suppliers/requirements_plant_access.aspx)
  
- The Contractor must ensure that each Contract Worker signs the **Project Security Rules** (a copy of which is an attachment to your contract) as part of the “hire-in” process. A copy of each signed Project Security Rules sheet must be given to the Southern Company Contract Administrator.
  
- For on-site/jobsite drug screening, the Provider has established relationships with collection/testing service providers that are able to perform “point of collection testing” (“Quick Test”) at the jobsite. The Provider will direct the Contractor to the appropriate collection/testing service provider for that area. There is a 10 test minimum for services to be performed at the jobsite and a minimum 72 hour notice is required to avoid higher call out fees. As much advance notice as possible will help to ensure timely service.
  
- For off-site drug screening, the Provider has established relationships with healthcare/medical facilities close to each plant. If a Contractor needs to send their employees to a facility for collection/testing, the Provider will direct the Contractor to the appropriate facility for their location.
  
- If a “Quick Test” is administered, the Contractor must use the Provider’s Quick Test Kit. These kits can be purchased directly from the Provider using the contact information above.
  
- **The Contractor must have a discussion with their Southern Company affiliate plant contact prior to setting up an account with the Provider to determine 1) whether the plant will be utilizing an on-site testing service or whether the contractor should utilize a local testing clinic, and 2) whether the Contractor needs to purchase quick test kits or if the plant will provide the kits.**
  
- If a standard lab test is administered at a fixed clinic, the collector will provide the appropriate collection device. Keep in mind that standard lab test results may take 2 to 5 days.
  
- Not all contractors are required to have a Background Investigation. The Provider will direct the Contractor and/or their Contract Workers to a secure website to enter the information needed to conduct the investigation. There is also a fax line available if you are unable to use the secure website.
  
- Once the drug screen and/or background investigation are completed, the Provider will determine the Contract Worker’s status in accordance with Southern Company criteria, which can be found on page 3 of this document.

- Detailed test results and each Contract Worker's status will be provided to the Contractor via the Provider's secure website. The Provider will give the Contractor all information necessary for accessing its database when they establish an account with the Provider.

**Note:** If the drug screen and/or background results deem the Contract Worker as "non-compliant" and the Contractor decides to take **any action** against their employee (termination, demotion, etc.), the Contractor should consult with their legal counsel prior to taking any action.

\*\* Testing requirements will be communicated to the Contractor by the Plant/Contract Administrator and Supply Chain Management, but please note that **DOT-regulated workers are NOT required to comply with the drug testing requirements described above if performing in a DOT-regulated capacity.**

### Drug Screen Criteria:

	Drug Class	Initial Test Cutoff	Confirmation Test Cutoff
1.	Marijuana (THC metabolite)	50 ng/ml	15 ng/ml
2.	Cocaine metabolite	300 ng/ml	150 ng/ml
3.	Opiates	2000 ng/ml	2000 ng/ml
4.	Phencyclidine (PCP)	25 ng/ml	25 ng/ml
5.	Amphetamine and/or Methamphetamine	1000 ng/ml	500 ng/ml

### Alcohol Screen Criteria:

#### Alcohol cut-off levels:

.000 – .019%	Negative (Compliant)
.020 – and above	Positive (Non-Compliant)

**Note:** Alcohol screening is not applicable to initial/pre-site screening of contract workers. Alcohol screening may be applicable for reasonable cause, post- accident, and random screening programs.

### Background Investigation Criteria:

- State criminal history – States of residence for the past 7 years, searching records as many years back as available in those jurisdictions
- Sexual Offender Registry – States of residence for the past 7 years, searching records as many years back as available in those jurisdictions
- Social Security number search
- Global Watch – Special Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, or other watch lists in accordance with the Patriot Act

#### Discretionary background search criteria (Contractor will be directed by Southern Company)

- Employment verification – two employers, or last 5 years
- Education verification – highest level completed
- Special certifications or licenses (CDL, FAA, etc.)
- Driving Record

### Disqualification Standards

- Positive (Non-Compliant) drug or alcohol screen
- Felony Conviction
- Misdemeanor Conviction:
  - Single crime involving dishonesty, violence, sex offenses or controlled substances 5 years
  - Two or more crimes involving dishonesty, violence, sex offenses or controlled substances in the past 7 years
- DUI/ DWI convictions – two in past five years
- Incident of workplace violence
- Willful omission, misrepresentation, or falsification of personal data provided for background investigation purposes (such as omitted criminal convictions, falsification of degrees)
- Pending charges/ outstanding warrant, if conviction may disqualify the candidate
- Probation, if revoked would disqualify the candidate
- Unauthorized to work in the United States of America
- Other incidents or conduct of a criminal or dishonest nature