

As a commercial motor vehicle driver, you know that drugs and alcohol can get you into trouble, and with good reason — the irresponsible use of drugs or alcohol can have devastating consequences. Now, under the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s CSA enforcement program, drug or alcohol possession, use, or abuse can also harm your safety performance scores and may hurt your employer’s overall safety rating. Do you know when it’s legal to possess or use drugs or alcohol?

Are YOU Abusing Drugs or Alcohol?

Your track record on the following three violations will determine your score on the Drugs & Alcohol BASIC. Those with a higher severity will cause more damage to your scores, and those of your employer. Avoid these violations at all times!

Violation	Description	Severity
§392.4(a):	Using or possessing prohibited drugs.	10
§392.5(a):	Possessing, using, or being under the influence of alcohol within 4 hours prior to duty.	5
§392.5(c)(2):	Violating an out-of-service order related to alcohol abuse.	10

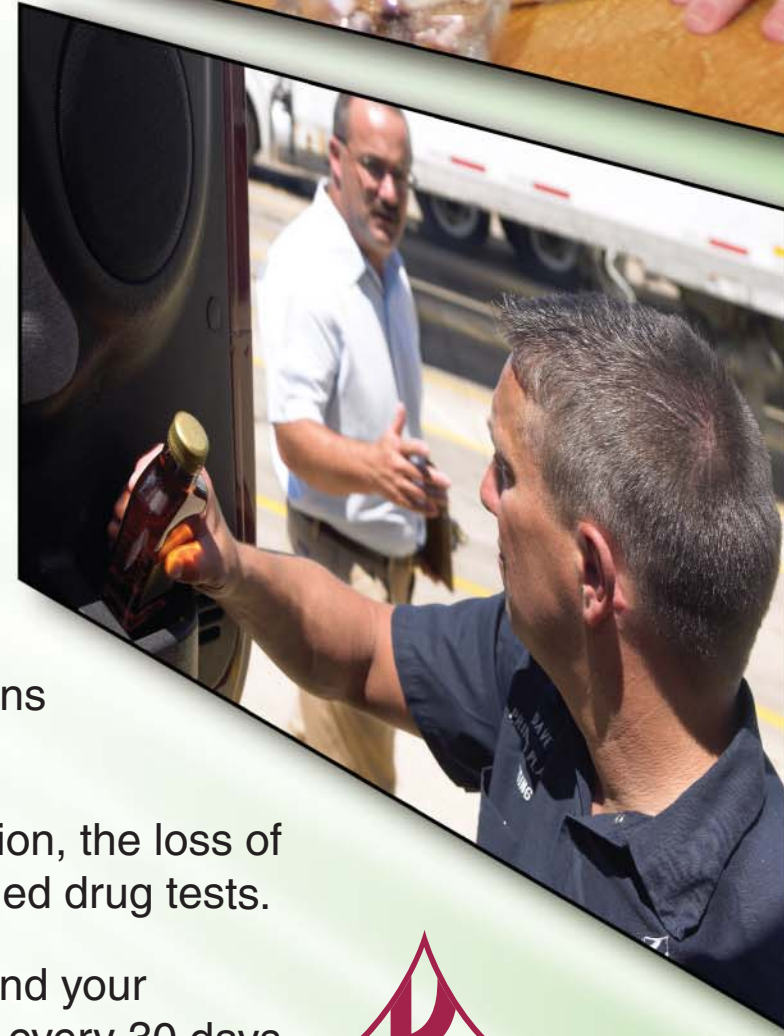
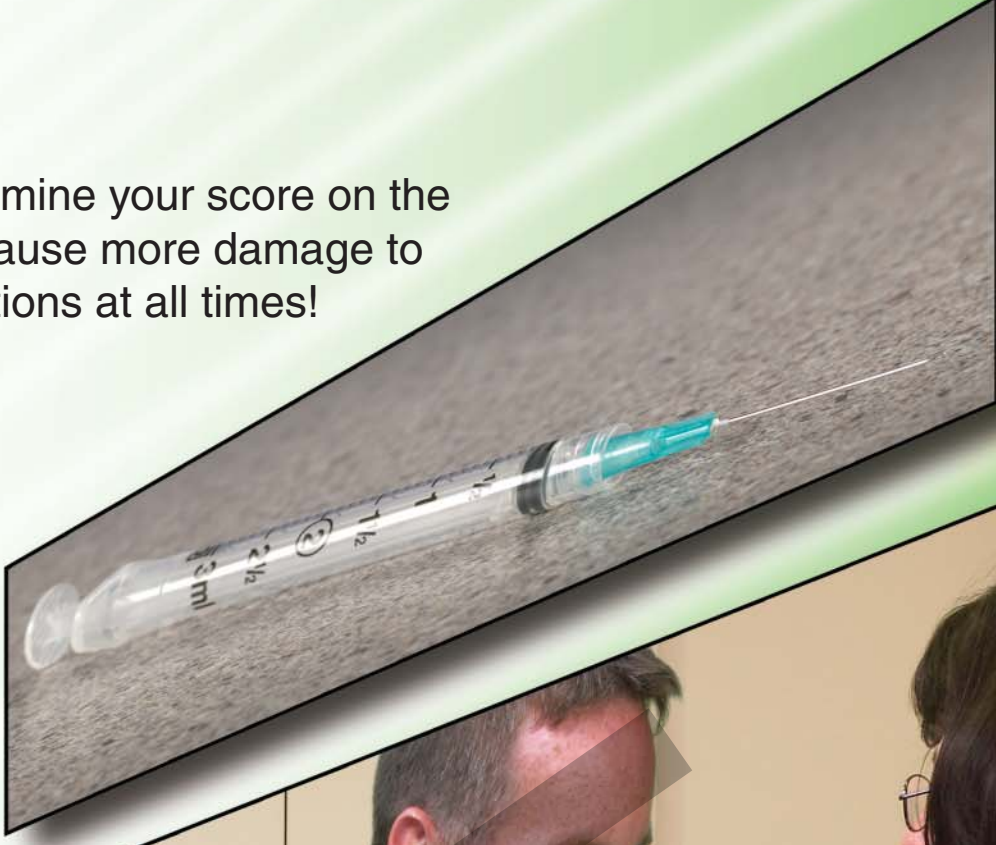
Keeping Your Score Low

Enjoying an occasional drink and taking certain drugs for legitimate medical reasons is usually acceptable, but knowing *when* to drink and *which* drugs are okay takes planning and responsibility. Keep the following in mind to keep your Drugs & Alcohol BASIC score as low as possible:

- **Drink responsibly!** You are prohibited from using alcohol within 4 hours before going on duty, or having any detected presence of alcohol while on duty or driving.
- **Take drug use seriously.** If you need to take a controlled substance, only do so in consultation with a licensed medical practitioner who knows your medical history, understands your job, and has told you that the substance will not affect your ability to drive safely. Never take an expired prescription or a drug that was prescribed to someone else.
- **Don’t transport alcohol unless it’s part of your load.**
- **Comply with company policies on drug and alcohol use.**
- **Never jump an OOS order!** If you are placed out of service for an alcohol violation, do not drive again until the order is expired.

Drugs & Alcohol Under CSA

- There are only 3 possible drug/alcohol violations that can harm your CSA scores, but all 3 are “red flag” violations that investigators will focus on during an audit.
- The violations in this BASIC apply to CDL and non-CDL drivers alike.
- Misuse of prescription **or** over-the-counter medications can be treated as a violation.
- Improper drug use can result in medical disqualification, the loss of your license, drug use/possession violations, and failed drug tests.
- Violations will affect your CSA score for 36 months and your employer’s score for 24 months. Scores are updated every 30 days.
- “Clean” inspections will NOT help your score in this BASIC.
- You can improve your score by avoiding new violations and waiting for time to pass since your last violation.



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