



**IAEE Board of Directors Policy Statement:  
A Drug Free Workplace for the Exhibition Industry**

Information gathered by the International Association of Exhibitions and Events (IAEE) from many sources including the United States Justice Department, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the National Drug Task Force and others discloses that the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol at the American workplace have reached alarming proportions.

There is no reason to believe that the exhibitions and events industry is immune. Quite to the contrary, post-accident drug testing results disclose that in some instances the use of illicit drugs at exhibition workplaces is significantly higher than the national Department of Transportation average.

The consequences of illicit drug use and alcohol abuse at the workplace are serious and tragic. Those who use illicit drugs and abuse alcohol create substantially higher costs for employers, exacerbate the nation's healthcare cost crisis, and are ill-suited to properly serve our industry's customers while under the influence.

While the consequences of this situation are severe, practical solutions already exist. In 2004, the Washington D.C. Convention Center, in conjunction with many of the official service contractors and organized labor who service the building, instituted a highly effective prevention program that should serve as a national model. The IAEE Board of Directors applauded the initiatives of the parties who crafted the DCCC Program then and renews its praise for their leadership now.

Inspired by their example, IAEE believes that all major exhibition facilities should strive in 2008 to achieve a drug free workplace as quickly as possible and that all employers engaged in the exhibition industry should do the same. To that end, the IAEE Board of Directors has ordered the adoption of random drug testing for all IAEE employees effective 1 January 2008.

The IAEE Board of Directors accordingly commits itself and the association to the goal of achieving a drug free workplace for all exhibitions and events. We will do this using several means including:

- Promoting the concept of a "Right of Entry" provision to all major venues that is coupled with random drug testing.
- Urging all members to support the initiative by adopting random drug testing at their workplaces.
- Informing members of the consequences and scope of the problem using all IAEE education and information channels.
- Urging all organizations that are active in the exhibitions and events industry to support our efforts with their own and to join with IAEE in creating the Alliance for a Drug Free Workplace for all exhibitions and events.

Adopted 14 January 2008.