

Abstract

The aim is to map the field of testing for the presence of alcohol and other addictive substances during the performance of profession in railway traffic, comparison of results of testing for the presence of alcohol and other substance during the performance of profession in railway transport in the period 2008 - 2012 in companies: Czech Railways, joint stock company, ČD Cargo, a joint stock company and the Railway Infrastructure Administration, state organization and comparison of practical measures with Guidance on managing safety risks related to the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs and/or Psychoactive Medication issued by the International Union of Railways. The work is focused on the guidelines of listed companies, testing methods for the presence of alcohol and other addictive substances listed companies, and the Czech Republic legislation dealing with this issue. There were used for the processing „Guidance on managing safety risks related to the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs and/or Psychoactive Medication”, policy documents and regulations, data from annual reports and safety and health at work reports of listed companies in period 2008 - 2012, and information provided by the Department of the system of safety rail operation, which analyses incidents in all these three railway companies.

All three railway companies have introduced measures to enforce the ban on the use of alcohol and other drugs and monitor their compliance. Results of testing for the presence of alcohol were almost one hundred percent negative in the professional practice. Testing for other addictive substances in the period 2008 – 2012 was realized sporadically. The results of tests for other addictive substances were negative in all cases.

The measures taken are based on the legislation of the Czech Republic. The differences between the recommendations of the International Union of Railways and the actions taken are in staff training, testing, and railway companies currently don't have employees treated on dependence on an addiction to alcohol or other addictive substance with employer's knowledge.

The results show that currently established measures in compliance with the prohibition of alcohol use appears to be effective. I recommend to be inspired by Italian railways, which used the recommendation of the International Union of Railways for other addictive substances.