

Alcohol Testing News

DID YOU KNOW?

Lifeloc supports alcohol testing in the Spanish speaking community.

- All Lifeloc FC Series PBTs are available programmed with Spanish text prompts and manuals, as a no-cost option. Just specify Spanish version when ordering
- DOT & Non DOT Forms are available in Spanish from Lifeloc supplies
- Response to inquiries in Spanish is routinely provided by phone or email

DID YOU KNOW?

DUI traffic laws in other countries: **Spain**

DUI limit is **.05 BAC**

In Spain, it is legal to drink *before* it is legal to drive. The minimum driving age is 18. The legal drinking age is 16, but you must be 18 to purchase alcoholic beverages.

DUI First Offense:
Fine of appx. \$330 to \$660
3 month license suspension

Subsequent DUI Offenses:
Additional fines
License suspension of 1-4 years
Imprisonment if fines are not paid

Alcohol Testing News is published monthly with items of interest to professionals involved in alcohol testing.

Welcome to the September, 2006 Edition!

Passive Testing: A Most Misunderstood Topic

Passive alcohol testing is a method of using a portable breath alcohol tester to screen for alcohol without the use of a mouthpiece. It is invaluable because it provides rapid screening at a very low cost. It can detect the *presence* of alcohol; but it cannot provide an accurate, reliable BAC level. This is because the measurement sample is most likely not pure lung air, but lung air mixed with ambient air. For this reason, when in the passive testing mode the operator receives a qualitative not quantitative result: "POS" for positive results, and "NEG" for negative results.

When a "POS" test result does occur, to determine an exact BAC and to insure that the alcohol detected originated in the subject's breath and not from ambient sources such as perfumes, Lifeloc recommends conducting a follow-up direct test using a mouthpiece. With a Lifeloc PBT, the subsequent test can be easily conducted within seconds of the initial test. All Lifeloc models incorporate the passive testing option except the base model FC10TM.

Lifeloc's PBT's simplify this testing process by allowing the choice of passive testing as the default mode, and with their advanced menu driven operation they facilitate alternating between passive and direct testing within seconds. Lifeloc's PBT's utilize a unique operation for passive sampling that provides a "true passive" capability, as the sampling system cycles more than once and provides a much larger sample size than with competitive units.



Passive testing is widely used in "zero tolerance" environments, and to screen large numbers of people quickly and efficiently in such applications as high and middle schools, prisons, treatment facilities, work release programs, and other situations where a quick test for the presence of alcohol is needed. Note however, that in DOT-regulated workplace testing, passive testing is not utilized, so it is important to check with your program director before implementing passive testing.

Passive testing is non-intrusive, it is fast, there is virtually no per-test cost, and in appropriate applications can save large amounts of staff time and money and still provide the level of screening required for that situation. Lifeloc welcomes further questions on this oft-misunderstood but valuable screening tool.

Alcohol Testing in Schools: A Growing Trend

Middle and High Schools are increasingly considering student alcohol and drug testing. Some schools have implemented programs for extra-curricular events, others test students based on suspicion, and some randomly test all students. Policies vary widely from state to state and district to district. Regardless of policy, the most common goal for school-based alcohol & drug testing is *deterrence*.



Lifeloc's model FC10Plus™ portable breath tester is widely used in school applications. It provides fast, inexpensive,



and non-invasive alcohol screening, and a very long life. The FC10_{plus} user selectable settings allow for passive testing as the primary mode with direct testing as a quick follow-up should the situation warrant. The FC10_{plus} can even be used to check beverages for the presence of alcohol.

A recent research study states: "Substance abuse and addiction will add at least \$41 billion to the costs of elementary and secondary education this year due to class room disruption and violence, special education and tutoring , teacher turnover, truancy, children left behind, student assistance programs, property damage, injury and Counseling."*

The solution can start with having an approved substance abuse testing policy in place.

For more information, please contact Lifeloc Technologies or visit our schools' webpage at: <http://lifeloc.com/schools/schools.html>

SAPAA Annual Conference

Lifeloc Technologies was pleased to participate in the exhibit at the SAPAA (Substance Abuse Program Administrators Association) Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas, August 15th and 16th. This conference allowed Lifeloc to introduce the Phoenix 6.0TM, the newest and most advanced evidential breath alcohol testing instrument in the industry, to an association who is a leader in the administration of workplace substance abuse prevention programs. SAPAA members who were unable to attend the conference or who were unable to visit the Lifeloc booth, can contact us at info@lifeloc.com for more information.

*National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. The reports title is Malignant Neglect: Substance Abuse and America's Schools, dated September 2001.

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