



Making safety the priority

Five questions to ask your supplier when choosing a breathalyser

Some devices on the market are little more than a novelty item. In a Choice review of a number of “personal breathalysers” available in Australia, they found many of the devices on trial underestimated Breath Alcohol Concentration (BrAC) readings, falsely indicating the user is under the 0.050 limit.

With inaccuracies like this, you may as well roll the dice to find out if someone is over the limit!

In a workplace testing program it is important to have a device that can be trusted. The wrong result can be costly...

When people’s lives are at stake, can you afford to take the risk?



Drug Detection Solutions has prepared a list of questions to help you find a quality breathalyser for your workplace.

Question One:

Is the breathalyser Australian Standard AS 3547-1997 certified?



Australian Standard AS 3547-1997 specifies that a breathalyser must meet a certain level of accuracy and be able to maintain that accuracy over the calibration period of the device.

Be cautious about claims by suppliers that their breathalysers have been “designed to meet Australian Standards”. “Designed to meet” is NOT the same as actually being certified to the Australian Standard!

Only breathalysers that hold a current Product Certification Certificate, (such as the one shown left for the AlcoVUE®) truly pass the test when it comes to accuracy and reliability.

Ask your supplier to provide you with a copy of a valid & current certificate for the actual model you are buying.

Question Two:

Does the breathalyser have a fuel cell sensor?

Breathalysers that use a fuel cell sensor offer higher accuracy, are more specific to alcohol and have a longer life expectancy.

Cheaper breathalyser devices often use semi-conductor sensors which do not offer the same accuracy. All Australian police services use breathalyser devices with fuel cell sensors for their roadside breath testing programs as this technology is one of the most reliable ways to measure Breath Alcohol Content (BrAC).



Cheaper personal breathalysers, such as those sold at auto supplies stores, use semi-conductor sensors which do not match the accuracy offered by fuel cell sensors.

Question Three:

What are the calibration requirements?

How often?

Calibration is necessary to maintain accuracy. Some devices may stop working once a set number of tests have been completed and this can cause headaches for people doing large numbers of tests. It is recommended to look for a device that bases its calibrations on the number of months since the last service.

Who will do the calibration and how long will I be without my breathalyser?

Make sure your device has an Australian service centre that can assist in carrying out recalibrations and repairs. Check what their usual turnaround time is also. If you are going to be without your breathalyser for a long period of time, consider what impacts this may have on your workplace health & safety programs.

How much will it cost?

A precision breathalyser is a long-term investment. Just as you would when buying a car, take into account the cost of maintaining the breathalyser.

AlcoVUE® Calibration Details

Frequency: recommended every 6 months. A reminder sticker is placed prominently on all devices indicating the due date for the next recalibration

Turnaround time: Typically 1-2 working days from receipt of the instrument.

Cost: \$98.00 ex GST + return freight (customers are welcome to nominate their own freight company)



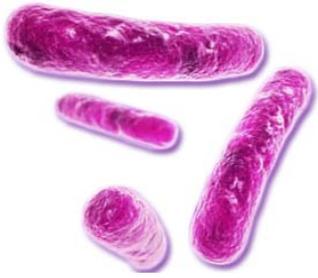
Question Four:

Does the breathalyser sample deep lung air and monitor pressure?

The breathalyser **MUST** sample deep lung air. The level of alcohol in the specimen analysed will then properly reflect what is present in the circulating blood. To ensure that deep lung air is being sampled, the breathalyser should be capable of monitoring how long and how hard the individual is blowing.

Question Five:

How hygienic is the breathalyser?



Breathalyser mouthpieces should be readily available, hygienically sealed, single-use and disposable. Alternatively, check whether there is a "contact-free" sampling option available - this can also assist in lowering your cost-per-test.

Could saliva or similar contaminations be drawn into the sampling pump? If this is a possibility, there is potential for subsequent test subjects to be exposed to the contamination. Confirm what features the breathalyser offers to prevent this from occurring.

Stay Safe With AlcoVUE® - Available From Drug Detection Solutions

Drug Detection Solutions alcohol screening instruments are the world's leading fuel cell breathalysers for law enforcement and workplace safety. This AlcoVUE® is certified to AS 3547-1997 and are used by State Police Forces across the globe.

Drug Detection Solutions offer a comprehensive range of devices and supporting accessories including printer kits, hygienic single-use mouthpieces, security brackets and instruction boards for self-testing.

All repairs and servicing is conducted in Australia with quick turn-

around times.



AlcoVUE®

Applications

Law enforcement
Mining
Heavy industrial



ALCORapid®

Applications

Mass screening:-
Pass/Fail
High/Low Range

Contact Drug Detection Solutions today to find out more about their range of breath-alcohol detection devices and accessories.

www.DrugDetectionSolutions.com.au | info@DrugDetectionSolutions.com.au