

Chapter 448-15 WAC

ADMINISTRATION OF BREATH ALCOHOL SCREENING TEST

WAC

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WAC 448-15-010 Approval of devices. The following preliminary breath test (PBT) instruments are approved for use in the state of Washington as breath alcohol screening devices, subject to the requirements outlined in the following sections:

Alcosensor III (Intoximeters, St. Louis, MO).
Alcosensor FST (Intoximeters, St. Louis, MO).

Any other instruments approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will be considered for approval in Washington state on application to the state toxicologist, providing that a suitable program for maintenance, certification and operator training is also established and approved.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.506. WSR 08-05-029, § 448-15-010, filed 2/12/08, effective 3/14/08; WSR 99-06-047, § 448-15-010, filed 3/1/99, effective 4/1/99.]

WAC 448-15-020 Use of test results. The devices described in WAC 448-15-010 are approved for use in establishing probable cause that a subject has consumed alcohol. For purposes of this section, valid results are considered those obtained from following the approved protocol, by a trained operator using an approved device which has been certified according to the rules described in WAC 448-15-030. Valid results will show to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, the test subject's breath alcohol concentration. Valid results are suitable to assist in establishing probable cause to place a person under arrest for alcohol related offenses. These results may not be used on their own for determining, beyond a reasonable doubt, that a person's breath alcohol concentration exceeds a proscribed level such as anticipated under the 'per se' statutes for intoxication.

This preliminary breath test is voluntary, and participation in it does not constitute compliance with the implied consent statute (RCW 46.20.308).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.506. WSR 08-05-029, § 448-15-020, filed 2/12/08, effective 3/14/08; WSR 99-06-047, § 448-15-020, filed 3/1/99, effective 4/1/99.]

WAC 448-15-030 Test protocol. The operator must perform the test according to the policies and procedures approved by the state toxicologist. The operator will perform the following test protocol:

(1) The operator shall advise the subject that this is a voluntary test, and that it is not an alternative to any evidential breath alcohol test.

(2/12/08)

(2) The operator shall determine by observation or inquiry, that the subject has not consumed any alcohol in the fifteen minutes prior to administering the test. If the subject has consumed alcohol during that period, the officer should not administer the screening test for probable cause purposes until fifteen minutes have passed. If the subject responds that they have not consumed any alcohol in the last fifteen minutes, the officer may offer the subject the opportunity to provide a breath sample into the PBT.

(3) Ensure a blank test result is obtained.

(4) Have the subject exhale into the mouthpiece with a full and continuous exhalation.

(5) Observe the results.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.506. WSR 08-05-029, § 448-15-030, filed 2/12/08, effective 3/14/08; WSR 99-06-047, § 448-15-030, filed 3/1/99, effective 4/1/99.]

WAC 448-15-040 Certification. Any PBT used as described in the preceding sections, must be certified at least every six months. In order to certify a PBT as accurate, the certifying agency must follow a protocol approved by the state toxicologist. Certification of PBTs can be performed by persons certified by the state toxicologist as PBT technicians, or by factory authorized representatives, provided that the protocol for certification approved by the state toxicologist is followed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.506. WSR 08-05-029, § 448-15-040, filed 2/12/08, effective 3/14/08; WSR 99-06-047, § 448-15-040, filed 3/1/99, effective 4/1/99.]

WAC 448-15-050 PBT operators. Persons certified as evidential breath test instrument operators as described in chapter 448-16 WAC shall be trained and authorized to perform the tests described herein on the PBT, for the purposes outlined in this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.506. WSR 08-05-029, § 448-15-050, filed 2/12/08, effective 3/14/08; WSR 99-06-047, § 448-15-050, filed 3/1/99, effective 4/1/99.]

WAC 448-15-060 PBT technicians. Persons trained according to outlines approved by the state toxicologist, in the proper procedures for certifying PBT instruments shall be certified as PBT technicians. Their responsibilities will include performing periodic certification and maintaining records on such certification. Wallet sized permits shall be issued to persons so qualified. The certification received on successful completion of the training must be renewed every three years. Persons certified as evidential breath test instrument technicians as described in chapter 448-16 WAC are also certified to perform all the duties of PBT technicians.

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[Statutory Authority: RCW 46.61.506. WSR 08-05-029, § 448-15-060, filed 2/12/08, effective 3/14/08; WSR 99-06-047, § 448-15-060, filed 3/1/99, effective 4/1/99.]