



Colorado Springs Police Department

Standard Operating Procedure

DL-1501-13 ALCO Sensor III Preliminary Breath Tests

Section 1500 – Assigned Equipment

Effective Date: 2/8/2021

Supersedes Date: 1/3/2009

.01 Purpose

The purpose of the directive is to outline the procedures for obtaining a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT).

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 1500 Assigned Equipment](#)

.03 Definitions

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.04 Procedure

The PBT may assist in the process phase of a suspected intoxicated driver. The device can also be used to check the breath alcohol content of an individual prior to transport to CJC.

The PBT does not replace the need for *standard field sobriety maneuvers*. Officers should not use the PBT prior to administering the *standard field sobriety maneuvers*.

Each area command has a supply of PBT units, which may be checked-out by any officer. The PBT units are stored in the division equipment rooms. The PBT will be checked-in at the end of the officer's tour of duty.

Upon obtaining a PBT, the individual officer will be responsible for checking the condition of the PBT, to include:

- If a PBT is found to be in need of repair, the officer discovering the problem will notify the DUI Sergeant.
- Each PBT has operating instructions on the back of the device.

- Officers will not attempt to calibrate the device; this will be done on a routine basis by the DUI Enforcement Unit.

Officers should be aware that a suspect is not required to submit to a preliminary breath test and that it must be voluntary.

If a driver is under 21 years of age and the officer reasonably suspects alcohol consumption, the officer may, after advising the person that he/she can refuse or agree to be tested, conduct the preliminary breath test.

The PBT results must be listed on the Field Sobriety Checklist or DUI notes if it is used.

However, the officer may only testify to the fact that the subject passed or failed the preliminary breath test, unless the defense asks for the actual PBT results. If the PBT results are introduced by the defense, the results may be included in testimony.

PBT results are acceptable in all DOR hearing testimony.