



STANDARD FIELD SOBRIETY TEST (SFST) Outline
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Recognized Field Sobriety Tests:



1. **Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN).** Nystagmus is an involuntary jerking of the eyes. The three (3) clues of impairment on this test are (1) lack of smooth pursuit; (2) distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation; and (3) onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees. There are three clues for each eye for a total of six clues.
 - a. Lack of smooth pursuit - As the eye moves from side to side, notice if it moves smoothly or if it jerks noticeably. The eyes of a person not impaired will move smoothly, like a marble rolling on glass. The eyes of an impaired person will jerk and move like a marble rolling on a sheet of sandpaper.
 - b. Distinct and sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation - This occurs if the eye jerks distinctly when it is moved as far to the side as possible. The nystagmus must be distinct and sustained to be counted as a clue.
 - c. Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees - This occurs when the eye moves toward the side and it begins to jerk before it is has moved through a 45 - degree angle (**approximately at the edge of the subject's shoulder**).
2. **Walk and Turn (WAT).** The WAT Test is a divided attention test consisting of two stages - the instruction stage and the walking stage.
 - a. In the instruction stage, the subject should stand on the line with feet heel to toe, keeping arms to the side, and listening to instructions. Proper starting position is right foot directly in front of left.
 - b. In the walking stage, the subject takes nine heel to toe steps down the line, turns in the prescribed manner and returns down the line to where he started with nine heel to toe steps while counting out loud. The subject should keep hands at his/her side while walking.
 - c. The prescribed manner of turning is that the subject should keep the front foot on the line, and turn by taking several small steps with the other foot.
 - d. Officers administering this test should be aware of the eight (8) clues that indicate impairment - (1) can't balance during instructions; (2) starts too soon; (3) stops while walking; (4) does not touch heel to toe (1/2 inch or more between steps); (5) steps off the line; (6) uses arms for balance; (7) loses balance on turn or turns incorrectly; or (8) takes wrong number of steps.
 - e. Once instructions are complete, the officer must demonstrate the test. It is recommended that the administering officer demonstrate three proper steps and a proper turn. The officer must demonstrate utilizing an odd number of steps insuring that the turn is completed in the proper direction. Officer safety should always be practiced.



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- 3. One Leg Stand (OLS)** - The OLS Test is a divided attention test consisting of two stages - the instruction stage and the balancing and counting stage.
- a. In the instruction stage, the subject is directed to stand with feet together, with arms at the sides, and to listen to instructions.
 - b. In the balancing and counting stage, the subject should stand on one foot and hold the other foot straight approximately six inches off the ground, toes pointed forward and parallel to the ground while staring at the upraised foot and counting aloud as directed. The subject will count in the following manner - one thousand and one; one thousand and two; one thousand and three; and so on until instructed to stop. The officer will time the test and stop after thirty (30) seconds.
 - c. Officers should carefully observe the suspect's performance and look for four specific and observable clues of impairment. The four (4) clues are; (1) sways while balancing; (2) uses arms to balance by raising them six inches or more; (3) hops; or (4) puts foot down.