

KAHNTACT USA, INC.

MEDICAL EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

CALIBRATIONS OF EVIDENTIAL BREATH ANALYZERS

The requirement to change the calibration of an evidential breath analyzer on a regular schedule is not a DOT mandate.

The DOT requires periodic quality assurance procedures, officially known as external calibration checks. This is required of all EBT's. External calibration checks are required at a minimum every 30 days, 31 days, or monthly by the EBT manufacturer which is stated in their respective Quality Assurance Programs (QAPs).

Calibration, which is erasing the current calibration and the establishing new calibration, is not required on a regular basis by all EBT manufacturers. Some EBT's are required to have calibrations erased and re-established either every 6 months or once per year. Other devices only require a calibration when the device does not pass an external calibration check or series of checks.

Some devices are known to experience no likely need to be calibrated for many years. Thus, the manufacturers and their respective QAPs do not require the issuance of costly certificates for Breath Alcohol Technicians (BATs) who must perform calibrations on occasions when the device has failed to maintain its stability.

What does this mean for the owner/operator of an EBT?

The ability to calibrate a device and the requirement to calibrate when based on a QAP mandate means additional costs for manufacturer's certificates. This also promotes anti-competitive situations on training if manufacturers restrict training Trainers to a limited few, or to instructors who must submit fees to the manufacturer for issuance of certificates.

Sometimes restrictions follow from the manufacturer down to the BAT. Examples would be:

- Not being able to perform breath alcohol tests outside of one organization (not a DOT requirement)
- Not being able to train BAT's outside of one organization (not a DOT requirement)
- The requirement to have a manufacturer's certificate to perform breath alcohol tests (not a DOT requirement)
- The requirement for re-certification more frequently than DOT requirements
- The requirement to be trained only be manufacturers' trainers (not a DOT requirement)