## Forensic Oversight Board Meeting- 6/14/24

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### **Letter to Chief Justices**

 On March 26, 2024 a letter was sent to the Chief Justices regarding the breath test machines not being programmed with Massachusetts OAT tolerance ranges.



PANAGIOTES LAW OFFICE STEVEN W. PANAGIOTES, ESQ.

March 26, 2024

Chief Justice Heidi Brieger Executive Office of the Trial Court 1 Pemberton Sq. Boston, MA 02108

Chief Justice Stacey J. Fortes Administrative Office Edward W. Brooke Courthouse, 24 New Chardon St., 1st Floor Boston, MA 02114

Re: Office of Alcohol Testing

Dear Chief Justice Brieger and Chief Justice Fortes,

A variety of concerning issues and problems with the Office of Alcohol Testing (OAT) have been discovered by Attorney Steven Panagiotes of Concord and Attorney Joe Bernard. Specifically, OAT certified breath test machines are not programmed with Massachusetts tolerance ranges, and are at times producing untruthful "pass" results. These issues deal directly with the maintenance and calibration of every Draeger Alcotest 9510 machine in Massachusetts. One of the most troubling factors was the degree of difficulty involved in identifying these problems. Most defense lawyers and prosecutors will be unable to identify this misleading information; it was only after countless hours of research that we were able to unearth these problems. The information is buried and the fact that the machines are not programmed consistent with Massachusetts standards is totally unfair and deceptive.

This troubling issue that has been discovered requires immediate remedial action. Based upon the nature of this issue, as further discussed below, we request that an immediate statewide moratorium be instituted on using breath test results to prosecute OUI offenses in the Commonwealth. During this moratorium, we request that an investigation into this issue be conducted and a hearing take place as to the full scope of the impact on the calibration and certification process.

As you are aware, the certification and calibration process was the main subject matter of the nine years of the statewide breath test litigation. The accuracy and manner in which the machine is calibrated are of vital importance to the scientific reliability of the results when it measures a citizen's breath sample in the field. Each year, the Draeger 9510 breath test machines are brought

## Timeline:

- October 2023- OAT reached out to Draeger for explanation
- November 2023- Sent FOIA Request
  - **December 2023-** Draeger responded to OAT
  - **December 2023-** Received FOIA Response
  - **January 2024-** OAT emailed Joe Bernard Draeger Response
  - February 2024- Joe Bernard emailed OAT back regarding question not being answered
  - March 2024- Letter was sent to the Chief Justices
  - April 8th, 2024- Meeting with BT Working Group- discussed having OAT mark the worksheets as 'Failed'
  - **June 20th, 2024-** Have not heard an update regarding a remedy yet, but there will be a BT Working Group meeting on this date.

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## Communication Between OAT & Draeger in 2018 Before Accreditation-Obtained via FOIA Request

#### **OAT to Draeger-May 2018:**

"We're working on rewriting our 9510 certification protocol to prepare for applying for accreditation and we're trying to understand the reasoning behind some of our previously established acceptable tolerances. Are you available this week to discuss some of the technical aspects? I don't know if you have any firsthand knowledge of the discussions between OAT and Draeger when they were establishing these ranges or if we should also reach out to Hansueli. Here are some of the questions that we have:

- 1) Currently our check of the 0.100% wet auto-adjustment is set at +/-3% but our 0.100% dry verification immediately after is set to +/-1% followed by a manual adjust if necessary. Is there a reason why the dry is much tighter? Should it be that tight? What possible ramifications could occur from widening the dry tolerance and/or making them the same?
- 2) Our 0.400% verification followed by manual adjustment if necessary is at +/-2% while the "calibration" steps afterward are all set to 4%. Is there a reason that the 0.400% is tighter?

### **Draeger to OAT:**

"Would Thursday May 24 at 11 am EDT work for you? If so, Hansueli and I are available then. I set up a conference line for this:

Dial-in : +1 215 660 2600 Conference ID: 89071673"

### **Email Communication Between OAT & Draegar-2023**

OAT reached out to Draegar for more information in regards to what causes the machine to provide the 'Pass' or 'Fail' message.

#### OAT to Draegar on October 27, 2023:

"I was hoping you might be able to answer a question for us. I have received a couple inquiries from attorneys here in Massachusetts about the "Certification Test Results" and "Verification Test Results" parameters on the Massachusetts 9510 for the tests that OAT runs during our certification of an instrument. I am trying to determine which parameters cause these fields to read "FAIL" on the printouts generated during each of the types of tests that OAT runs. OAT has its own internal ranges and limits that analysts evaluate the IR and EC readings against, but I am trying to find the parameters set in the instrument by Draeger that cause "Certification Test Results" and "Verification Test Results" to read "PASS" or "FAIL." Is this something you can provide us or is there any documentation that we could share that explains the parameters set in the instrument to determine the results of those fields?

For reference, the following are the tests performed by OAT during certification that we are looking for:

0.100 adjustment check (ethanol solution; calibration procedure)

0.100 verification test (dry gas; verification test)

0.400 verification test (ethanol solution; verification test)

0.200 calibration test (dry gas; verification test)

0.080 calibration test (dry gas; verification test)

0.020 calibration test (dry gas; verification test)

0.080 quality control test (ethanol solution; verification test)

Please let me know at your earliest convenience whether this is something you can assist us with or if there is someone else at Draeger that you can connect us with to get this information. Thanks for your time and assistance."

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### **Email Communication Between OAT & Draegar- 2023**

### **Draegar to OAT on December 19, 2023:**

"This information is based on your instrument configuration version 1.56. The MA instrument uses PERCENT BAC as the measurement unit.

#### Measurement Procedure 8:

0.100 adjustment check (ethanol solution; calibration procedure) – Adjustment Procedure menu item. The tolerances in this procedure are: 0.005 percent BAC absolute or 5% relative, whichever is greater.

#### Measurement procedure 10:

- 0.100 verification test (dry gas; verification test) Verification Test menu item
- 0.400 verification test (ethanol solution; verification test) Verification Test menu item
- 0.200 calibration test (dry gas; verification test) Verification Test menu item
- 0.080 calibration test (dry gas; verification test) Verification Test menu item
- 0.020 calibration test (dry gas; verification test) Verification Test menu item
- 0.080 quality control test (ethanol solution; verification test) \ Verification Test menu item

The tolerances are 0.010 percent BAC absolute or 7% relative, whichever is greater. In measurement procedure 10 the operator can choose the target concentration, gas type and gas inlet, however the tolerances are fixed. Anticipating a potential additional question, the tolerance window is inclusive (PASS) at the exact tolerance limits.

Please let us know if you need additional information."

## Communication Between Joe Bernard & OAT-Dies On The Vine

### Joe Bernard Email to OAT Regarding Draeger Response on February 2024:

"I have been reviewing all of your responses, and I so appreciate the work, but I don't think Brian Shaffer answers the question we need answered. You have informed me in previous emails and conversations that all standards have a different tolerance ranges than what the machine is programmed by Draeger during the certification process. What we want to know are the specific tolerance ranges set in the machine versus what OAT is utilizing. As you have said OAT's tolerance ranges are more narrow than the machine settings but could you specifically inform me of the tolerance ranges? Could you send me these two sets of tolerance ranges, so I could see them?

Sincerely,

Steve and Joe"

## **OAT Monitoring Certification Process**

- OAT is monitoring both the tolerance ranges and limits.
- Possibility of Human Error-
  - The process set in place with OAT has a human monitoring the tolerance range and limits due to OAT's set ranges & limits being different from what is programmed in the machine.
  - Defense attorneys are trusting the machine to catch issues during our client's BT, but we cannot trust the machine to determine if a machine passes or fails certification at a specific ethanol concentration

## ISO 17025 - Scientifically Not Precluded

### What is ISO 17025?

- ISO/IEC is the main standard used by testing and calibration laboratories. It is the standard for which most labs must hold accreditation in order to be deemed technically competent.



## Tolerance Ranges- Found in the Certificate of Calibration Procedure- Issued in September 2014

Ethanol Concentration	Acceptable Ranges	Acceptable Limits		
0.100% wet	0.097% - 0.103%			
0.100% dry	0.099%-0.101%	+/-0.002		
0.400% wet	0.392%-0.408%	+/- 0.005		
· 0.200% dry	0.195%-0.205%	+/- 0.005		
0.080% dry	0.075% - 0.085%	+/- 0.003		
0.020% dry	0.017%-0.023%	+/- 0.003		
0.080% wet	0.075% - 0.085%	+/- 0.003		

## Tolerance Ranges- Found in the Certificate of Calibration Procedure- May 2016-2017

Ethanol Concentration	Current Acceptable Ranges	Current Acceptable Limits		
0.100% wet	0.097% - 0.103%	+/- 0.003		
0.100% dry	0.099% - 0.101%	+/- 0.002		
0.400% wet	0.392% - 0.408%	+/- 0.005		
0.200% dry	0.192% - 0.208%	+/- 0.005		
0.080% dry	0.074% - 0.086%	+/- 0.003		
0.020% dry	0.016% - 0.024%	+/- 0.003		
0.080% wet	0.074% - 0.086%	+/- 0.003		

## Most Updated Tolerance Ranges- Found in the Certificate of Calibration Procedure for the Alcotest 9510- October 2022

### 13 Appendix 1

Ethanol Concentration	Acceptable Ranges	Acceptable Limits		
0.100% wet	0.097% - 0.103%	+/- 0.003		
0.100% dry	0.097% - 0.103%	+/- 0.003		
0.400% wet	0.388% - 0.412%	+/- 0.005		
0.200% dry	0.190% - 0.210%	+/- 0.005		
0.080% dry	0.075% - 0.085%	+/- 0.003		
0.020% dry	0.015% - 0.025%	+/- 0.003		
0.080% wet	0.075% - 0.085%	+/- 0.003		

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### **6.2 Adjustment Check using 0.100% Wet- Procedure**

Adjustment Check using 0.100% Wet 6.2.1 When instrument screen prompts for the calibration check, remove simulators and attach 0.100% OAT manufactured solution tandem simulators. Connect the short silicone hose to the Cuvette Inlet (Diagram 1) and insert the adaptor connected to the clear hose to the Simulator Standard Pump Outlet Port (Diagram 1).

- 6.2.2 Initiate adjustment check process by pressing "OK".
- 6.2.3 Review the Adjustment Check Test Results printout after it prints to determine if results are within the following acceptance criteria:
- 6.2.4 The IR and EC results must fall within the range of 0.097% 0.103% alcohol content.
- 6.2.5 The IR and EC results (n=6) must agree within +/- 0.003 alcohol content of each other.
- 6.2.6 If the results fall within the acceptance criteria, remove simulators from the instrument and proceed to Verification Test and Manual Adjustment (section 6.3).
- 6.2.7 If the adjustment check results are outside the acceptance criteria, repeat the adjustment (section 6.1) and adjustment check (section 6.2) once. If the results still do not fall within acceptance criteria, consult with a supervisor to stop the certification procedure and document this on the BT Certification Form. The instrument shall be labeled as "Out of Service". Certification may be attempted again at a later date. If the adjustment check results are still outside of the acceptance criteria, consult with a supervisor to determine if the instrument will be sent for repair.

## ARBE-0044- Sturbridge PD

Massachusetts Office of Alcohol Testing

Outside

range of

acceptable

0.097-0.103

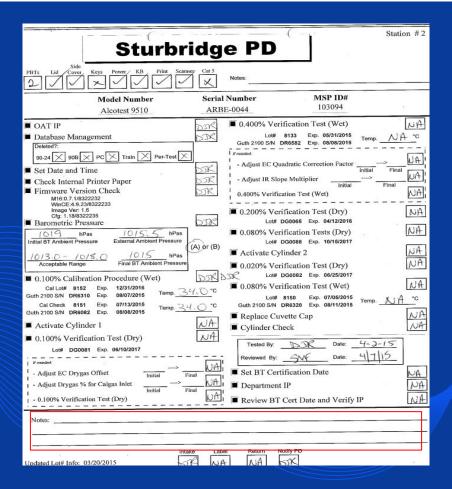
Calibration Report

#### Massachusetts Office of Alcohol Testing Calibration Report

Sturbridge PD

Sturbridge PD Sequential Test #: 410 Sequential Test #: 04/02/2015 04/02/2015 Test Date: Test Date: Certification Test Results: FAIL Certification Test Results: PASS **Breath Test Instrument Information Breath Test Instrument Information** Firmware Version Firmware Version Serial Number Serial Number Model Number Model Number 8322232 0.7.1 8322232 0.7.1 ARBE-0044 ARBE-0044 Alcotest 9510 Alcotest 9510 Calibration Device / Standard Information Calibration Device / Standard Information Expiration Expiration Serial Number / Serial Number / Model Number / Model Number / Date Date Concentration Concentration Lot Number Lot Number 08/07/2015 08/07/2015 DR6310 DR6310 **GUTH 2100 GUTH 2100** Cal Simulator: Cal Simulator: 12/31/2016 12/31/2016 0.100 0.100 Cal Standard: Cal Standard: Calibration Check Device / Standard Information Calibration Check Device / Standard Information Expiration Serial Number / Serial Number / Expiration Model Number / Model Number / Date Date Concentration Concentration Lot Number Lot Number 08/08/2015 08/08/2015 DR6082 DR6082 Cal Check Simulator: GUTH 2100 Cal Check Simulator: GUTH 2100 07/13/2015 07/13/2015 0.100 0.100 Cal Check Standard: 8151 Cal Check Standard: 8151 **Test Sequence Details Test Sequence Details** Time Time Result Result Function Function HH:MM:SS HH:MM:SS %BAC %BAC 08:13:51 08:25:36 0.000 0.000 Air Blank Test Air Blank Test 08:14:16 0.097 08:26:00 0.096 Calibration Check IR Calibration Check IR 08:26:00 08:14:16 0.096 Calibration Check EC 0.095 Calibration Check EC 08:15:51 08:27:35 0.000 0.000 Air Blank Test Air Blank Test 08:15:52 Not within 0.097 08:27:37 0.095 Calibration Check IR Calibration Check IR 08:15:52 08:27:37 0.094 acceptable Calibration Check EC 0.095 Calibration Check EC 08:17:27 08:29:11 0.000 0.000 Air Blank Test Air Blank Test limit by OAT 08:17:29 0.097 08:29:12 0.090 Calibration Check IR Calibration Check IR 08:29:12 08:17:29 standards or 0.095 Calibration Check EC 0.095 Calibration Check EC 08:30:00 08:18:18 0.000 0.000 Air Blank Test the machine's Air Blank Test standards Analyst: DANIEL J. RENCZKOWSKI Analyst: DANIEL J. RENCZKOWSKI Signature Date: 04/02/2015 Signature Date: 04/02/2015

### **Failed Certification - Ethanol Concentration 0.100%**



-No notes for this specific test

## 7.1 Calibration using 0.200% Dry Gas-Procedure

7.1.7.4 If the results do not fall within acceptance criteria, repeat the 0.200% calibration once more.

7.1.8 If the results still do not fall within acceptance criteria, consult with a supervisor and document on the BT Certification Form. The instrument shall be *labeled as "Out of Service"*. Certification may be attempted again at a later date. If the calibration results are still outside of the acceptance criteria, consult with a supervisor to determine if the instrument will be sent for repair.

Exculpatory?
Ordered in Ananias

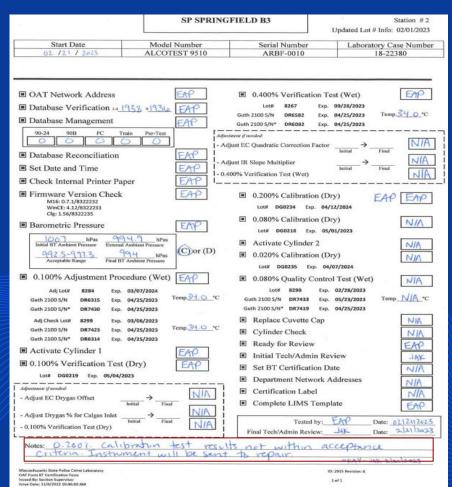
# Needle in a Haystack ARBF-0010- State Police Springfield B3

Massachusetts Office of Alcohol Testing						Test Results					
Calibration Test Results					SP Springfield B3						
SP Springfield B3					Test Date: 02/21/2023 Sequential Test #: 1949				-		
est Date:	02/21/2023	Sequential T	est #: 1948			Verification Tes	t Results: PASS				
	est Results: PASS					Breath Test Inst	rument Information Model Number Alcotest 9510	Serial Number ARBF-0010	Firmware Ve 8322232 0.7		
	Model Number Alcotest 9510	Serial Number ARBF-0010	Firmware Version 8322232 0.7.1			Calibration Stan Type DRY	dard Information Lot Number DG0234	Concentration 0.200	Expiration 04/12/2024	Inlet Drygasinlet1	
Calibration Sta	DG0234	Concentration 0.200	Expiration Inlet 04/12/2024 Drygas	sInlet1		Test Sequence I	Details Function Air Blank Test	Result <u>%BAC</u> 0.000	Time HH:MM:SS 10:02:49		
,	Function  Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard IR	0.000 0.205 0.202 0.000 0.206	Time HH:MM:SS 09:39:10 09:39:47 09:41:46 09:41:46 09:43:32 09:43:45		Not within acceptable		Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test	0.206 0.204 0.000 0.207 0.202 0.000 0.207	10:03:26 10:03:26 10:05:12 10:05:26 10:05:26 10:07:12 10:07:26 10:07:26 10:08:05		Not within acceptable limit +/_ 0.00
Analyst: <u>ELIZ</u>	Air Blank Test	0.000	09:44:23		limit +/_ 0.005	Analyst: ELIZAB Signature:	eth a. POYANT	at s	ignature Date:	02/21/2023	-

Massachusetts Office of Alcohol Testing

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### **Failed Certification - Ethanol Concentration 0.200% Dry**



"0.200% calibration test results not within acceptance criteria."

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### 7.2 Calibration using 0.080% Dry Gas- Procedure

7.2.1 Repeat the steps for the above 0.200% calibration using a 0.080% cylinder.

7.2.2 Review the Calibration Test Results printout after it prints to determine if the results are within the following acceptance criteria:

7.2.2.1 The IR and EC results must fall within the range of 0.075% - 0.085% alcohol content.

7.2.2.2 The IR and EC results (n=6) must agree within +/- 0.003 alcohol content of each other.

7.2.2.3 If the results fall within the acceptance criteria, proceed to 7.3.

7.2.2.4 If the results do not fall within acceptance criteria, repeat the 0.080% calibration (section 7.2) once more.

7.2.3 If the results still do not fall within acceptance criteria, consult with a supervisor and document on the BT Certification Form. The instrument shall be labeled as "Out of Service". Certification may be attempted again at a later date. If the calibration results are still outside of the acceptance criteria, consult with a supervisor to determine if the instrument will be sent for repair.

### **ARBK-0016- Amherst PD**

Massachusetts Office of Alcohol Testing

Calibration Test Rowlk

-Verification Report GAA 8-30-2019

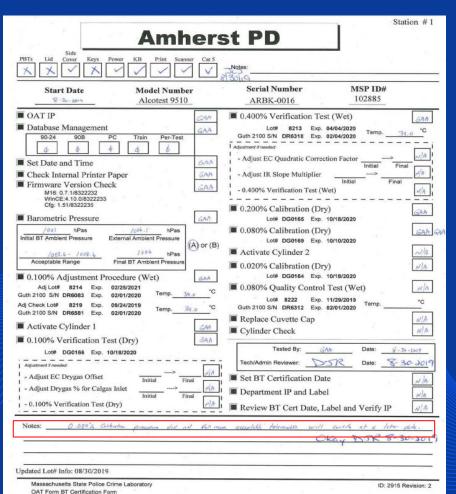
Massachusetts Office of Alcohol Testing

Calibration Test Results

-Verification Report GAA 8-30-2019

Verification Test Results: PASS		Test Date: 08/30/2019 Sequential Test #: 1434			Sequential	I Test #: 1435	5
vernication lest Results: PASS	16.7	i ka	Verification T	est Results: PASS			
Breath Test Instrument Information Model Number Alcotest 9510	Serial Number ARBK-0016	Firmware Version 8322232 0.7.1	Breath Test Ir	nstrument Information Model Number Alcotest 9510	Serial Number ARBK-0016	Firmware Ve 8322232 0.7	
Calibration Standard Information Type Lot Number DRY DG0169	Concentration 0.080	Expiration Inlet 10/10/2020 CAL GAS INL	Calibration St Type DRY	tandard Information Lot Number DG0169	Concentration 0.080	Expiration 10/10/2020	Inlet CAL GAS INLET 1
Test Sequence Details Function  Air Blank Test Calibration Standard Calibration Standard Air Blank Test Calibration Standard Calibration Standard Calibration Standard Air Blank Test Calibration Standard Air Blank Test Calibration Standard Calibration Standard Air Blank Test Calibration Standard Calibration Standard Air Blank Test	C 0.078 0.000 R 0.077 C 0.078 0.000 R 0.081	Time HH:MM:SS 10:34:10 10:34:47 10:36:16 10:36:29 10:36:29 10:38:15 10:38:15 10:38:46	Not within acceptable limit +/_0.003	Function  Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test Calibration Standard IR Calibration Standard EC Air Blank Test	0.000 0.078 0.078 0.000 0.074	Time HH:MM:SS 10:41:55 10:42:32 10:42:32 10:44:04 10:44:18 10:45:53 10:46:07 10:46:07 10:46:38	Tolerance outside acceptable range of 0.075- 0.08
Signature:	Si	gnature Date: 08/30/2019		TAVO A. AVILA			

### Failed Certification - Ethanol Concentration 0.080% Dry



"0.080% calibration procedure did not fall within acceptable tolerances"

## **Possible Solutions**

- Open Source?
  - o Software with source code that anyone can inspect and modify.
- Independent Labs & New Machines?

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