June 26, 2012

Dear Technical Supervisors:

The unknown proficiency test is being changed. The proficiency test used to test your ability to accurately report the alcohol concentration of an unknown solution. The new proficiency test will test your ability to properly calibrate an Intoxilyzer 5000 and accurately report the alcohol concentration of an unknown solution.

The unknown proficiency solutions will be distributed at the ATA/Symposium/Annual Renewal Meeting August 5-7. The proficiency test must be done on an Intoxilyzer 5000 that was last calibrated by the Technical Supervisor being tested and the paperwork documenting the calibration of the instrument must have been completed and sent to the OSD prior to the date and time of the proficiency test. The proficiency test may be conducted on an instrument in the lab or in the field.

The new proficiency test will be similar to the calibration procedure. Place the instrument in the ACA mode and analyze your unknown solution 20 times. Remove the label from the bottle, place it on the ACA printout and sign or initial the ACA printout. Enter the last 15 ACA results in the attached Excel spreadsheet. Scan the ACA printout into a pdf document and submit it along with the completed Excel spreadsheet to mack.cowan@dps.texas.gov. To pass the proficiency test, the mean must be within ±0.003 or 3% of the unbiased estimate of the solution’s concentration and the standard deviation must be less than 0.00100.

Please email your results to me by August 31, 2012. Results that are not received by August 31, 2012 or results that are not within ±0.003 or 3% of the unbiased estimate of the solution’s concentration or the standard deviation is not less than 0.00100 will be considered a failure. Any Technical Supervisor who fails the first attempt will be sent another bottle of solution and given a new deadline date for reporting the results. Any Technical Supervisor who fails the second attempt will be asked to come to the OSD to demonstrate their ability to calibrate an Intoxilyzer 5000 and for remedial training, if necessary.

This is a proficiency test. The analysis of the solution must be conducted solely by the Technical Supervisor whose name is on the proficiency test solution bottle and it must be analyzed on an Intoxilyzer 5000 last calibrated by the Technical Supervisor taking the test.

Sincerely,

J. Mack Cowan
Scientific Director,
Texas Forensic Breath Alcohol Testing Program