



Alcohol breath-testing

REASONS FOR ALCOHOL BREATH-TESTING

- An undertaking has been agreed upon and entered into between the Board and the registrant;
- A condition to do so has been imposed on the registrant's registration;
- An order to do so has been imposed; and/or
- A registrant may volunteer to undergo alcohol breath-testing while the Board is assessing their health.

WHY IS ALCOHOL BREATH-TESTING NECESSARY?

The Boards' primary responsibility is the protection of "vulnerable persons". This includes the public and the registrant.

Alcohol breath-testing allows registrants who have been diagnosed with an alcohol dependence/abuse disorder to remain in the workforce by providing reassurance to the Board that they are not practising under the influence of alcohol.

Although alcohol breath-testing may seem inconvenient to the registrant, it is worth remembering that the alternative may be de-registration.

WHO WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?

The Alcohol Breath-testing Protocol is a written document that informs registrants of their obligations and responsibilities.

Information on alcohol breath-testing can be obtained from the Board on 3405 6013.

HOW DO I COMMENCE ALCOHOL BREATH-TESTING?

Prior to commencing testing the registrant is required to purchase a suitable alcoholmeter (new or used) to read the percentage of alcohol vapour expired in the breath. The registrant is also required to nominate an eligible person/s to administer alcohol breath-tests, for approval by the Board.

The registrant must submit a breath-test on any day that he/she performs clinical duties, prior to commencing any shift or duty. The breath-test must be provided no more than 30 minutes prior to commencement of practice. The *Alcohol Breath-testing Protocol* outlines when an additional breath-test is required. For example, an additional breath-test will be required if the registrant

takes a break that exceeds one hour in length.

The registrant is required to keep a breath analysis log book for the recording of alcohol breath-testing results. The registrant must send to the Board the log book record of breath-testing results for a specified period at a frequency to be decided by the Board.

The details of actual hours worked are also required to verify that alcohol breath-testing has been undertaken at the correct times.

WHAT DOES THE BOARD DO WITH THE RESULTS?

The alcohol breath-test results are reviewed by the Board or relevant Committee so that a registrant's progress can be monitored.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING PERIODS OF ABSENCE?

A registrant is only required to alcohol breath-test on days that he/she is performing clinical duties.

WHAT HAPPENS WHERE THERE IS FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROTOCOL?

Some examples of non-compliance can include not providing an alcohol breath-test before the commencement of clinical duties, alcohol breath-testing more than 30 minutes prior to the commencement of clinical duties, the administration of an alcohol breath-test by a person not approved by the Board or not complying with any aspect of the *Protocol*.

Action may be taken where there has been a failure to comply.

WHAT HAPPENS IF RESULTS ARE UNSATISFACTORY?

If a registrant submits an alcohol breath-test other than 0.000%, he/she must consent to the immediate notification of the Board by the person administering the test. In addition to this, the registrant must present immediately to a pathology laboratory for the collection of a blood alcohol test. A registrant must not commence or recommence practice on any day where he/she has returned an alcohol breath-test result other than 0.000%.

For further information contact Health Assessment and Monitoring, telephone 07 3405 6013, fax 07 3234 1013 or email healthassessment@healthregboards.qld.gov.au