

Choosing a Breath Alcohol Testing Instrument

How do you know which alcohol testing device is right for you?



With over 100 evidential breath testing devices listed on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Conforming Products List (CPL), selecting the right breath alcohol testing instrument can quickly become overwhelming.

First, it is critical to understand that if you plan to conduct any DOT alcohol testing, you **must** use a device listed on NHTSA's CPL. However, confusion often arises because there are actually two separate CPL lists:

- The Conforming Products List of [Alcohol Screening Devices \(ASDs\)](#), and
- The Conforming Products List of [Evidential Breath Measurement Devices \(EBTs\)](#)

Devices on the Screening Devices list may be used **only for screening tests**. Most devices on the Evidential Breath Measurement Devices list are approved for **both screening and confirmation testing**—but not all.

To complicate things further:

- Some EBT-listed devices have **asterisks**, meaning they are **screening-only**
- Some devices are **obsolete** and no longer supported by the manufacturer
- Others appear compliant but **do not meet full DOT requirements**

For example, certain devices (such as Lifeloc FC-10, FC-20; Intoximeters FST, Alco-Sensor III, and others) lack some or all of the required capabilities required by DOT rules such as:

- Printing results
- Assigning unique test numbers
- Performing air blanks

These features are **mandatory for DOT confirmation testing**, meaning those devices cannot be used for full DOT testing programs.

Bottom line: Before purchasing, always confirm with a reputable distributor or manufacturer that the device meets **ALL DOT requirements for both screening AND confirmation testing**.

Choosing the Right Device for Your Business

If you are offering (or planning to offer) breath alcohol testing services, your clients will expect **complete compliance**—which means performing both screening and confirmation tests.

This makes selecting a **fully compliant EBT device** essential. Be sure the device:

- Is listed on the **Evidential Breath Measurement Devices CPL**
- Does **not** have an asterisk
- Meets **all DOT testing requirements**

Balancing Cost, Features, and Performance

Not all breath testing devices are created equal—especially when it comes to **price, functionality, and long-term value**. When evaluating your options, consider:

- Do you need a **portable device**, or a larger desktop unit?
- Would you benefit from a **Bluetooth printer** for convenience?
- Do you need access to **stored test records**?
- Are you paying for features you'll never use?

Many devices on the market come loaded with features—but more features typically mean **higher costs**, often without added practical value.

The key is to strike the right balance between:

Functionality + Compliance + Cost Efficiency

Avoid Common (Costly) Mistakes

Be cautious of low-cost devices online claiming to be “DOT-approved.”

Devices priced at just a few hundred dollars are typically:

- **Screening devices only**
- **Not compliant for full DOT testing**

These devices will not support a legitimate testing program and can ultimately cost you far more in lost business and compliance issues.

Don't Overlook Ongoing Costs

Your investment goes beyond the device itself. Be sure to evaluate:

- **Mouthpiece costs** (single-use and recurring)
- Gas tanks and calibration supplies
- Required testing forms and accessories

A lower upfront price can quickly become expensive if **consumables are overpriced**.

Training Requirements Matter

If you plan to conduct DOT alcohol testing, federal regulations require:

- Breath Alcohol Technicians (BATs) must complete **qualification training**
- Training must be **specific to the make and model of the device**
- Training must be provided by a **qualified instructor**

Before purchasing, confirm that (1) DOT-compliant training is available and (2) training is affordable and accessible.

Additional Factors to Consider

- Warranty and technical support
- Availability of replacement parts and service
- Shipping timelines and costs
- Reliability and manufacturer reputation

Why More Professionals Are Choosing Lifeloc Devices

At Certified Training Solutions LLC, we have already done the hard work of evaluating the market for you.

After extensive research, we chose to partner with [Lifeloc Technologies](#)—one of the **most trusted, well-established, and respected manufacturers in the industry**.

Lifeloc devices are known for:

- Proven **DOT compliance**
- **Durability and reliability** in real-world testing environments
- **User-friendly design** for efficient testing workflows
- Strong manufacturer support and long-term product viability

As an affiliate distributor of Lifeloc Technologies, we proudly offer two of the **most reliable and cost-effective EBT devices available today**:

- [Phoenix 6.0BT](#)
- [EV30](#)

These devices are available in multiple kit configurations to match your **budget**, your **testing volume**, and your **operational needs**.

Additionally, Lifeloc offers a valuable buy-back program—allowing you to trade in your existing device and printer (from any manufacturer) and receive up to \$350 toward the purchase of a new Lifeloc device. This makes upgrading to a fully compliant, modern instrument more affordable than ever.

Start Strong or Upgrade with Confidence

Whether you are launching a new testing program or replacing outdated equipment, [Certified Training Solutions](#) provides:

- **Fully compliant, industry-leading devices**
- Competitive pricing
- Expert guidance to ensure you choose the right solution
- Ongoing customer service and support you can rely on

With us, you are not just buying a device—you are investing in a **complete, compliant, and supported testing solution**.

You may reach us by email at: Admin@CertifiedTrainingSolutions.com

Or by telephone at: 307-640-5859 or (888) 684-1658

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