

Breathalyzers checking in France.

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The French législation defines two types of limits for alcohol :

- one for alcohol in blood,
- one for alcohol in breath.

These two methods are légal. Evidential Breath analyzers are used for determining alcohol concentration in breath .

In France they are considered as legal metrological instruments and they are subjected to a specific legislation .

The current french législation is based on a french national standard . The spécifications of this législation are not very far from the OIML Recommendation R 126.

However , the french législation deals only with non-portable breath analyzers which are used within buildings .

The evidential breath analyzers are submitted to different legal metrological control opérations .

- 1) The pattern approval which is délivré by the sous-direction de la métrologie of the ministry of industry. The tests for pattern approval are performed by a laboratory named by the ministry of industry . This laboratory is L.N.E
- 2) The initial verification is performed on each instrument before bringing them in service . This verification is also performed by L.N.E named by the ministry for this opération .
- 3) The periodic verification is performed every twelve monthes on each instrument . The check is done by ten accredited laboratories .

For all this checkings , a specific test rig similar to the one described in the OIML Recommendation is used to get the conventional true value of the gas concentration .