

Blood Alcohol Device (BAC) Interfacing

Mobile Units

When a police video system is installed in a police car this opens up a whole new era in video verification. Some portable Blood Alcohol detectors have the ability to output the BAC level of prospective DUI/DWI violators in a digital format. The industry standard is RS-232. This data is sent to the video system, which reads the data and overlays the information on a video image. The officer will instruct the person to blow into the Breathalyzer in front of the camera that is usually mounted in the windshield facing forward. Some vehicles if equipped with a backseat camera and microphone can have the test done in the back seat of the police vehicle. The later case is recommended because the Breathalyzer can then be wired directly to the video system installed in the vehicle. In both cases, this complete video record of the test along with the officer, violator, vehicle and location of incident make for an ironclad case for the prosecutor.

Station Units

Most police stations have a special room setup for DUI/DWI violators where the interview and Breathalyzer test are issued. This room usually has video cameras that are recording the entire interview. The VSI-Pro can be connected between the camera and the DVR or VCR. The breathalyzers used here most commonly have the RS-232 output since they are of higher quality than the portable units. This RS-232 output is then wired to the VSI-Pro and the data from the test is then overlaid on the video image of the entire event. This system saves time since all the PD needs to do is give the attorneys the tape or CD, instead of a certified copy of the test results. Of course the test results can also be given but usually not required in most cases. This video record eliminates and argument the test results were not from the video tape or digital recording.

Summary

The RS-232 outputs of the BAC breathalyzers used today are standard RS-232. This printable data connects directly to the in car video system or VSI-Pro without any special formatting. The VSI-Pro also has exception processing. This feature allows the VSI-Pro to be programmed to output an alarm or signal when the BAC level exceeds the legal limit. This can then mark the video tape or Digital recorder for later fast retrieval of all violators via alarm search features of most Time Lapse VCRs. or Digital Video Recorders. The AVE line of DVRs or other 3rd party compatible models, can also accept the digital data from the Breathalyzer directly. Therefore it is not only saved as part of the video record but as an associated data file along with T/D and User information. The officer can then later easily search the DVR database for name, BAC level, T/D or any user information directly and show a play list of all matches. This makes retrieval and searching very quick and easy.