



SensAbues 'Breath Air' drug testing

Your breath says a lot about you. Recent research has found that the chemicals present in each person's breath can provide a unique 'breathprint' that differs from person to person, while other scientists have worked on breathalyser-like tests that can indicate the presence of a bacterial infection inside someone's body.

In the decades since the 1960s, though, when the first electronic breathalyser for blood alcohol content was developed, research has led to relatively little advancement in the use of chemical breath analysis for law enforcement purposes. Police have long been able to instantly test a person's level of alcoholic intoxication by the side of a road, but testing for other drugs has required blood or saliva – substances that are more invasive to acquire and that typically have to be sent to a crime lab for processing.

All this is about to change as the ultimate drug testing technology, Breath Air, is now here and being used. The technology was developed at Karolinska University Hospital in Sweden and is now commercialised by SensAbues, Sweden. This new technology is based upon the principle that aerosols from the lungs can get trapped in a collecting device – the DrugTrap™ – made by SensAbues. Once used, the device is sent to an accredited laboratory with analysing equipment (a Liquid Chromatography – Mass Spectrometer (LC-MS) instrument).

Currently the sample can be screened for approximately 20 drugs, including some newly designed drugs.

The collection takes approximately two minutes. The client breathes or blows into a mouthpiece so no saliva can get to the filter, only the aerosols. A small plastic bag indicates when it is full and the sample collection is finished. Next the collection device is sealed for transportation to the laboratory. The sample can be mailed by post as only the collection device is sent .

The Exabreath™ technology has been successfully tested in Swedish prisons and rehabilitation clinics, and in spring 2013 commercial workplace drug testing started. Many labs in Europe and the US are evaluating DrugTrap™ and Exabreath™ technology.

Compared to urine tests are that the Exabreath is non-intrusive, quick, difficult to adulterate, gender neutral and no toilet facilities are required.

For more information please see www.sensabues.com or email info@sensabues.com