



ALL INDIA LOCO RUNNING STAFF ASSOCIATION

Regd. No: 17903, Hq. Aravindapally, Lower Beniasol, Post-Adra, Distt.- Purulia (W.B) Pin - 723121

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Chennai Division

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President
V. SRIRAM

Treasurer
CH. SRINIVAS

Secretary
P. SENTHIL KUMAR

To
The Divisional Railway Manager,
Chennai Division,
Chennai.

Respected Sir,

SUB : Malfunctioning of breathalyser Reg.

The breathalyser instrument is being installed to test the sobriety of Running staff during signing ON and OFF. Regularly running staff are under going this test while signing ON and OFF. Recently three new Kiosk instruments have been installed at JTJ. The breathalyser instruments have been incorporated inside the instrument itself. With in a span of 20 days there were 10 cases of BA positive have been reported in all the three machines. Even after scrutiny by the company staff also the same problem exists. All the above cases found negative on reporting to Doctor.

This creates an uncertainty in the minds of the running staff over the breathalyser machine as it questions the integrity of the employee and also affects the status of the employee in society. Running staff are fearing to undergo this test due to this uncertainty. Even a teetotaler on being tested positive in this machine and further tested negative by Doctor found his name in the list of alcoholics by the authorities, while lowers the dignity. Most of the above cases were reported during signing off.

All electronic devices, do not give 100 per cent accurate results error is bound to occur , Breathalyzers, like any other device or machine, are prone to malfunction and error. For this reason, they are not as accurate or reliable as blood tests. Here are some factors that could render an inaccurate or unreliable breath analyser result. Foreign substances like breath mints, alcohol based mouth wash, dental medication etc may lead to a false positive. And also medical conditions such as diabetes, body temperature, fasting or dieting , ketosis , Gastroeashopagal reflux disease etc. many of this conditions can raise the number of BAC due to the concentrated vapours that do not represent actual impairment. Environmental factors such as paint fumes, chemical emissions, varnish , plastics and adhesives can trigger false results

These factors are also to be taken in to consideration before pointing finger towards running staff found positive and subsequently negative by doctor. The most unfair thing is that the employees found positive in BA test at crew booking and further certified negative and not in the influence of alcohol by doctor had been issued with chargesheet and further penalized.

In the South Central Railway they are following a practice of conducting a second test with another machine when a running staff is found positive in the first instrument and further booking is based on the results of the two tests. The feasibility of such a practice may be examined in our railway also. At the outset, it is requested to analyse the real reason for the above incidents and morale of the employee to be upheld.

Thanking you,

Chennai
07/12/23

Copy to
ADRM 1
Sr DEE/OP/MAS

Yours faithfully



P. Senthil Kumar
Divisional secretary
Ph. No 7708090642