Intoxilyzer Instrument Transition FAQ

1. Why is the state of Georgia transitioning from the Intoxilyzer 5000?

   The Intoxilyzer 5000 was originally put into place in Georgia in 1995 and over the last 17 years0has accurately and reliably measured breath alcohol levels. The Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 5000 continues to work well and provide accurate, reliable results. The primary reason for transitioning to a new instrument is because of difficulties in obtaining replacement instrument components due to the relative age of the Intoxilyzer 5000. It is expected that the number and severity of these problems will only increase in the future. As an example, customers were informed In 2007 that the vendor of the Intoxilyzer 5000's internal slip printer would no longer be supplying the original part to CMI. This ultimately required that all Intoxilyzer 5000s needing internal printer replacement be retrofitted to utilize an external slip printer. In addition, the Division of Forensic Sciences was notified by the manufacturer several years ago that changes in recent years to the Georgia Model 5000's software had reached the limit of the instrument's memory capacity. This limitation in the memory capacity of the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 5000 makes any future changes to the instrument's software virtually impossible. Thus, in 2011 the GBI-DOFS decided to take proactive measures to ensure that instruments used in the state of Georgia would continue to be uniformly supported with parts and service by embarking on a comprehensive evaluation to approve the successor to the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 5000.

2. To what Instrument is the state of Georgia transitioning?

   After a comprehensive evaluation of evidential breath alcohol testing instruments currently sold in the US the Intoxilyzer 9000 was selected by the Division of Forensic Sciences as the successor to the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 5000. This selection was presented during a regular meeting of the Board of Public Safety as proposed modifications to GBI Rule 92-3: Implied Consent. A second presentation before the Board of Public Safety in November 2012 led to the final approval of the Intoxilyzer 9000 as an authorized breath alcohol testing instrument effective January 1, 2013.

3. How did the Division of Forensic Sciences select the Intoxilyzer 9000?

   The evaluation process began with a review of evidential breath testing instruments. Three instruments were selected for onsite evaluation. A comprehensive one year evaluation was then performed on these selected instruments. This evaluation consisted of objective scoring of approximately one hundred performance measures through both onsite laboratory and dosed subject testing and administrative review of published materials. Ultimately the Intoxilyzer 9000 manufactured by CMI, Inc. had the highest composite score after the evaluation was complete.

Thus the Intoxilyzer 9000 was selected as the successor to the Intoxilyzer 5000. For more information on the evaluation and approval process see the following link.

http://dofs.gbi.georgia.gov/downloads

4. How much will the Intoxilyzer 9000 cost?

   Currently the Georgia Model 9000 package is approximately $8000. This price will be subject to annual adjustments. The Intoxilyzer 9000 utilizes the same mouthpieces as the Intoxilyzer 5000, but will use an included external laser printer and copy paper instead of the Intoxilyzer 5000's evidence cards. In addition, the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000 will also require the use of a dry gas ethanol control with each subject test. A list of dry gas control vendors other than CMI has not yet been compiled; however, the Division of Forensic Sciences will maintain and post a current list of approved dry gas ethanol controls and vendor information starting in January 2013. The cost of dry gas ethanol controls will likely be approximately $0.50 per subject.

5. When can the Intoxilyzer 9000 be purchased?

   Law enforcement agencies will be able to purchase the Intoxilyzer 9000 after January 1, 2013. The Implied Consent Unit will be authorized to begin installing Intoxilyzer 9000s in law enforcement agencies beginning in February 2013 if operators from that agency have been certified to operate the Intoxilyzer 9000 by completion of a transition training course.

6. How long can agencies continue to use the Intoxilyzer 5000?

   The Georgia breath testing program encompasses approximately 8000 breath test operators and approximately 500 instruments spread across 159 counties. Transitioning from the Intoxilyzer 5000 to the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000 will require the replacement and installation of almost 500 instruments and will necessitate the training of all existing operators on the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000. In order to ensure an orderly transition to the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000 a three year plan has been developed for instrument transition. In this transition process, replacement of Intoxilyzer 5000s by law enforcement agencies in 2013 will be completely voluntary. By the end of 2014 the Implied Consent Unit will no longer inspect and certify Intoxilyzer 5000s possessing serial numbers beginning with 68-00. These instruments were purchased prior to 1998 and comprise about 25% of the total fleet of Georgia instruments. Pursuant to GBI Rule 92-3 no Intoxilyzer 5000 will be approved for use after December 31, 2015.

7. Will current Intoxilyzer 5000 operators be able to use the same permit to run tests on the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000?

   No. All current permits specifically state that they are effective for the Intoxilyzer 5000 only. Any current operator wishing to receive a permit to operate a Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000 will have to complete a 4 hour transition course pursuant to GBI Rule 92-3.

8. How can current operators sign up for a transition course to get a permit to operate the Georgia Model Intoxilyzer 9000?

   The Division of Forensic Sciences is currently in the process of developing a training curriculum for the Intoxilyzer 9000 Transition course. Transition courses for existing Intoxilyzer 5000 permit holders to receive a permit to operate the Intoxilyzer 9000 will be offered starting in February 2013. The course will only be offered to active operators who possess a valid Intoxilyzer 5000 permit and to those whose Intoxilyzer permits expired within twelve months of the scheduled transition course attendance. A list of available transition classes and registration instructions will be posted on the Division of Forensic Sciences website in late December 2012. Please check the Implied Consent page of the Division of Forensic Sciences website periodically for more information on registration.

9. May operators sign up for an Intoxilyzer 9000 Basic Operator's course?

   In order to maximize available resources, the initial priority will be to offer as many Intoxilyzer 9000 Transition courses as possible. Four (4) transition courses can be completed in the same two day timeframe as one class of new operators. As demand for the Intoxilyzer 9000 Transition course begins to decline, the number of Intoxilyzer 9000 Basic classes offered to law enforcement personnel will be increased as needed. A list of available Intoxilyzer 9000 Basic classes and registration instructions will be posted on the Division of Forensic Sciences website in late 2013. Only a minimal number of Intoxilyzer 9000 Basic classes will be offered in 2013; however, new students wishing to receive an Intoxilyzer 9000 permit may take the Intoxilyzer 5000 Basic class and then apply for the Intoxilyzer 9000 transition class.

10. What if an operator needs to renew an Intoxilyzer 5000 permit?

    For students needing to obtain or renew Intoxilyzer 5000 permits, a limited number of Intoxilyzer 5000 Basic and Refresher classes will be offered over the next three years. In 2013 a significant number of Intoxilyzer 5000 classes will be available; however, the frequency of these classes will be reduced based on demand and as the December 31, 2015 transition deadline approaches.