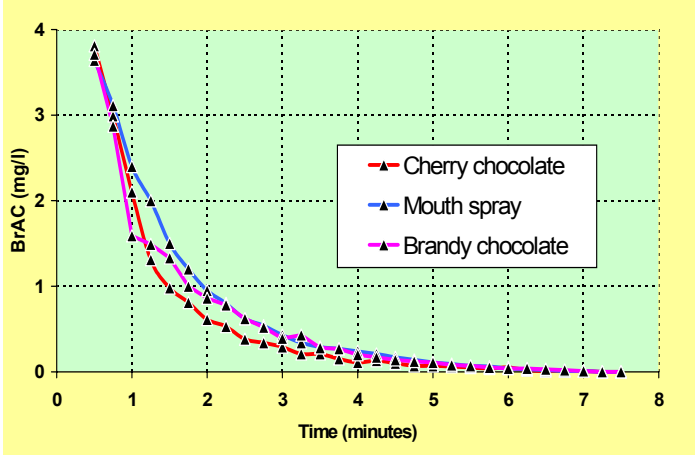
Dräger Alcotest 6810 med

Residual mouth alcohol

If shortly before the breath sample is taken the test subject consumes a substance containing alcohol (liqueur-filled chocolates, for example, or an alcohol containing mouthspray), the exhaled air absorbs alcohol not only from the lungs, but also from these substances in the upper part of the mouth and throat. As a result, the alcohol concentration detected in the exhaled air will be higher than the concentration in the lung air. However, within a few minutes this effect is completely cancelled out as the remaining alcohol in the mouth is taken up by the saliva or absorbed into the body (Figure).

To avoid influences on the measurement result by eventually present residual alcohol or other residues in the mouth, there must be an interval of at least 10 minutes before the measurement is performed. During this time interval the person being tested shall not smoke and shall not have anything to drink or to eat. After this time it is assured, that the residues are completely removed from the mouth and throat, and therefore an influence on the measurement result is not possible. Additionally, comparing the results of two individual measurements at intervals of several minutes excludes the possibility of residual alcohol in the mouth influencing the final result.



Decrease in alcohol concentration (BrAC) over time following consumption of alcoholic substances

[Source of the diagram: Prof. Andreas Slemeyer, University of Applied Sciences Giessen-Friedberg, Germany]