



THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE ROAD SAFETY  
THE BRAZILIAN EXPERIENCE

INTERNACIONAL CONGRESS AT UN

**INSTITUTO DE TECNOLOGIAS PARA O TRÂNSITO SEGURO PRESENTS, AT THE UN, AN  
AUDIT REGARDING TWO YEARS OF MANDATORY HAIR DRUG TESTING IN BRAZIL**

A Congress at the UN headquarters, in New York, will be attended by thematic authorities, specialists and Brazil's former President, Fernando Henrique Cardoso

Brazil has just completed two years (since March 2016) of its mandatory requirement for a long window of detection hair drug test for category C, D and E drivers. This marks the first public policy for the prevention of the use or abuse of drugs by drivers since the Brazilian Traffic Code was instituted. The application of a wide detection window drug test is related, besides other achievements, to approximately 1 million potential users of psychoactive substances professional drivers' evasion from our roads in a short gap of 2 years.

The Congress, titled "The Use of Technology to Promote Road Safety: The Brazilian Experience" is going to occur on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the UN headquarters, in New York. It will be attended by Mr. Mauro Vieira, Brazil's UN ambassador; Mr. Márcio Liberbaum, President of ITTS; Congressman Hugo Leal, President of the Parliamentary Front in Defense of Road Safety; Mr. Renato Dias, General Director of the Federal Highway Police; Mr. Maurício Alves, Director, National Department of Transportation (DENATRAN); Dr. Paulo Douglas, Proctor, Labor Ministry; Associate Judge, Dr. Nelson Calandra, former President of the Brazilian Judges Association's; Dr. Marcus Vinícius Furtado Coelho, President of the Constitution Committee and former President of the Brazilian Law Association (OAB); representative entities of traffic victims; and the program will be finished with a lecture by Mr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the former President of Brazil, who has also previously chaired the UN's Drugs Policy Global Commission.

The purpose of the Congress is to present the main results related to the decline in the numbers of accidents, deaths and injuries in Brazilian traffic over the last 24 months, since the law became effective.

At the Congress, specialists and public authorities will export the Brazilian national pride and reveal to the world how Brazil could, with its hair drug testing program, implement a health and security public policy, which prevents the consumption and distribution of drugs of abuse, decrease traffic-related accidents and deaths which according to Federal Highway Police data also contributed to a decrease of approximately 38% of trucks accidents on Federal roads in just the first six months of this mandatory testing program.

Mr. Márcio Liberbaum, President of ITTS, adds: "We will not rest until we turn our highways into safe places for us and our families. There is no motivation more relevant than this and we want to reaffirm our commitment in this battle."

The former President of Brazil, Mr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, emphasizes the importance of the Congress to the visibility of the new law: "We need to keep progressing on this process of modernization - both the nation and society at the same time. What we see is the implementation of a policy based on technological advances that assures health and security to the population".

### **ABOUT THE HAIR DRUG TEST:**

The accuracy of longer window of detection drug testing for drivers of categories C, D and E is required by the federal law 13.103/15 and it is properly regulated by CONTRAN and the Ministry of Labor. The obligation is effective since March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 for both new and renewal of driver's licenses in categories C, D and E, as well before the employment and after the employment (i.e. pre- and post-employment testing) of professional drivers. This is the first step to fight against the use of drugs by drivers since the Brazilian Traffic Code was in force, in January of 1998.

Brazil ranks third internationally in the rate of traffic deaths. Moreover, while heavy vehicles represent just 4% of the national fleet, they are involved in more than 38% of the accidents on Federal highways and 53% of the fatal accidents. The hair drug test is a laboratory technology that represents the most advanced tool to detect the regular use of psychoactive substances. It is a powerful tool in prevention, in the fight against the use of drugs of abuse and in the effective reduction of road violence involving professional drivers.

The test allows the identification of regular or repetitive use of drugs over a minimum 90 days prior to sample (head hair, body hair or nail) collection. This is markedly different than other drug test types - such as blood, urine or oral fluid - that detect recent use of drugs only over the last several days. The hair drug test deters the use of psychoactive substances by these professionals that, today, use them to withstand the workload. To satisfy a demand of more than 3 million drivers in Brazil, all the registered laboratories by DENATRAN structured their collection networks with more than 12 thousand points distributed for all the national territory.

The preventive anti-drug exam for heavy vehicle drivers and other safety-sensitive transportation employees has been in effect in the USA since 1989 and, 25 years after its introduction, the index positivity on drugs decreased in 70% (Source: Quest/NHTSA), besides the surprising decline in the number on roads accidents. Recently, US Congress pushed with the Fast Act the use of the longer window of detection hair drug testing by carrier companies in the process of admission and in the random process of professional drivers.

It is also important to mention that 93% of Brazilian population approves of the mandatory drug test for heavy vehicle drivers.

In Brazil, the hair exam has been available for more than 15 years by the Army, Navy, Air Force and by the Federal, Civil and Military Police, as well as the Fire Department and the Municipal Guard of many states, with verified effective results.

### **ABOUT INSTITUTO DE TECNOLOGIAS PARA O TRÂNSITO SEGURO**

The ITTS is a non-profit civil organization that gathers companies, institutions and professionals from different knowledge areas and aim to bring collective consciousness about the need of development for multidisciplinary measures that contribute for the prevention of traffic accidents.

Through an Advisory Board, formed by specialists and authorities who are able to legitimize and promote the fight for road safety, ITTS intends to encourage the public debate and the collective consciousness about this important topic, so that the Brazilian traffic system authorities can establish efficient public policies and permanently updated, promoting road safety. (<http://transitolivre.org.br>)