

## Preface

The Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training curriculum collectively, prepares police officers and other qualified persons to conduct the SFST's for use in DWI investigations. This training, developed under the auspices and direction of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), has experienced remarkable success since its inception in the early 1980s.

As in any educational training program, an instruction manual or guide is considered a "living document" that is subject to updates and changes based on advances in technology and science. A thorough review is made of information by the IACP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) of the Highway Safety Committee of the IACP with contributions from many sources in health care science, toxicology, jurisprudence, and law enforcement. Based on this information, any appropriate revisions and modifications in background theory, facts, examination and decision making methods are made to improve the quality of the instruction as well as the standardization of guidelines for the implementation of the SFST curriculum. The reorganized manuals are then prepared and disseminated, both domestically and internationally, to the states. Changes will normally take effect 90 days after approval by the TAP, unless otherwise specified or when so designated.

The procedures outlined in this manual describe how the Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs) are to be administered under ideal conditions. We recognize that the SFST's will not always be administered under ideal conditions in the field, because such conditions do not always exist. Even when administered under less than ideal conditions, they will generally serve as valid and useful indicators of impairment. Slight variations from the ideal, i.e., the inability to find a perfectly smooth surface at roadside, may have some effect on the evidentiary weight given to the results. However, this does not necessarily make the SFSTs invalid.