

Victoria's alcohol interlock program

Summary of information for participating drivers



Victoria's alcohol interlock program

Victoria has implemented alcohol interlock legislation which requires that an alcohol interlock is fitted to a car whose driver has been convicted of serious drink driving offences.

Each year repeat drink driving offenders are involved in road accidents that cause more than 20 deaths and over 500 injuries.

Victoria's alcohol interlock program protects drink driving offenders and other road users from the dangers of drink driving.

An alcohol interlock is fitted to a car to prevent it starting if the driver has been drinking.

The alcohol interlock program begins when a drink driving offender has been banned from driving and the banned period is about to end. Near the end of this period, the drink driver enters the 10 step alcohol interlock program.

Who has to use an alcohol interlock?

If you have been disqualified from driving for a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) offence, it is likely that if you want to drive legally again, then you will need to have an alcohol interlock fitted to your car.

The 10 Step Alcohol Interlock Program

These are the ten steps that you, as a participating driver, must take if you want to drive legally when your licence banned period has expired.

The legal requirements for an alcohol interlock are complex, so ask for advice if you don't understand what you have to do.

To understand your legal rights and obligations you should seek legal advice. You might also refer to the Road Safety Act 1986 available at dms.dps.vic.gov.au

Currently approved suppliers are: Draeger Safety **1300 780 689**, Guardian Interlock Systems **1300 881 005** and Smart Start **1300 256 900**.

Steps 1 – 4 Re-issuing your driver licence

Towards the end of the period during which you were banned from driving, you begin with Steps 1 to 4. In these steps you have your licence restored with an alcohol interlock condition, you then lease an alcohol interlock and have it fitted to your car.

Step 1 Obtaining a Licence Restoration Order

At least 28 days before your licence banned period ends, you should attend a Magistrates' Court nearest to where you live to organise a court hearing for your Licence Restoration Order. You also have to contact an accredited education agency to arrange an alcohol assessment.

Contact DIRECT Line **1800 888 236** for advice about accredited agencies.

The police will be aware of your application for the Licence Restoration Order and may interview you before the hearing.

Step 2 Investigate options for leasing an alcohol interlock

If you are likely to be issued with an interlock condition order, you should contact all approved interlock suppliers and investigate your options.

Step 3 **Attend court to obtain a Licence Restoration Order**

If the Magistrates' Court believes it is appropriate for you to be re-licensed, it will issue you with an order allowing you to apply to VicRoads to obtain a licence or permit. If the court decides that you must drive with an alcohol interlock, your licence will be marked with an 'I'.

Step 4 **Attend VicRoads Customer Service Centre to have your licence re-issued**

After the court has given you a Licence Restoration Order, VicRoads can issue you with a licence or permit. You must attend a VicRoads Customer Service Centre with proof of identity, and present your Licence Restoration Order.

Steps 5 – 6 **Installing and using the alcohol interlock**

To have the alcohol interlock installed in your car and to ensure you use it correctly, follow these steps.

Step 5 **Install alcohol interlock**

Before driving again you must sign an agreement with an approved alcohol interlock supplier and have an interlock fitted. Only approved service agents registered with approved interlock suppliers can install, service and remove interlocks.

All alcohol interlock services are paid for by participating driver. These include lease, installation, servicing and removing the interlock.

To assist low income earners, a subsidy is available to holders of valid cards issued by the Australian Government.

Holders of the following Commonwealth cards, issued by Centrelink, are eligible for concessional rates for the installation and maintenance of their interlock:

- Centrelink Health Care Card; or
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card, if evidence is also provided from Centrelink confirming that the holder also receives the maximum rate of payment.

Step 6 **Legally drive with an alcohol interlock fitted and attend scheduled maintenance services**

First you must complete successfully at least the minimum period with an alcohol interlock fitted to your car. During this period, which is set by the court, you must attend all the scheduled services and comply with both the interlock order and the manufacturer's instructions.

Steps 7 – 10 **Completing the alcohol interlock program**

As you near the end of your alcohol interlock period, you will have to organise a hearing in the Magistrates' Court to obtain an Interlock Condition Removal Order. These steps outline how you should prepare for that hearing and what you need to do to have the alcohol interlock removed from your car.

Step 7 **Prepare for your Interlock Condition Removal Order hearing**

You have three jobs to do to prepare for your court hearing. These are to visit the court nearest to where you live to organise a date for the court hearing, contact the alcohol interlock supplier for a report and finally contact the driver education agency for an assessment report. You have to start on these jobs at least 28 days BEFORE your alcohol interlock period ends.

The police will be aware of your application for the Interlock Condition Removal Order. and may interview you before the hearing

Step 8

Attend court for your Interlock Condition Removal Order

You have to attend the Magistrates' Court on the date set to apply for an Interlock Condition Removal Order.

Step 9

Attend VicRoads Customer Service Centre to have your licence re-issued

You must attend a VicRoads Customer Service Centre to have the interlock condition removed from your licence.

Step 10

Remove the alcohol interlock

Take your car to the alcohol interlock service agent to have the interlock removed and to complete your contract with the supplier.

After completing the alcohol interlock program

When you have satisfactorily completed the alcohol interlock program, you can drive without an interlock.

It is likely that you will be required to drive with a zero blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level for a period of time after you have completed the program, so please check your licence condition with VicRoads.

Further information

Approved interlock suppliers and their service agents:

Draeger Safety

1300 780 689

Guardian Interlock Systems

1300 881 005

Smart Start

1300 256 900

Accredited driver education programs and accredited agencies:

DIRECT Line

1800 888 236

VicRoads Customer Service Centres: 13 11 71

Hearing impaired TTY: 1300 652 321

This leaflet is a summary of a larger 20 page booklet which can be downloaded from the VicRoads website. vicroads.vic.gov.au or www.arrivealive.vic.gov.au

For further information please phone 13 11 71 or visit vicroads.vic.gov.au

