



Alcohol Interlock Scheme

Questions and Answers

What is an alcohol interlock?

Alcohol interlocks are electronic breath testing devices that can be linked to the ignition system of passenger vehicles, motorcycles and heavy vehicles. The driver must provide a breath sample with a blood alcohol content (BAC) below 0.02% BAC before the vehicle will start. Randomly timed breath tests must also be provided and passed during a journey.

Who is required to participate?

All drivers who commit and are convicted in Western Australia of an alcohol interlock offence on or after 24 October 2016 are required to participate in the Scheme.

Which companies are accredited service providers?

- Draeger Australia Pty. Ltd
- Ajen-Smart Start
- Guardian Interlock Systems

How can I become an agent of an accredited service provider to install alcohol interlocks?

If you are interested in becoming an agent of an Accredited Service Provider (ASP) approved to install alcohol interlock devices please contact any of the above ASP for further information.

How does an alcohol interlock prevent drinking and driving?

An alcohol interlock will prevent the vehicle from being started if the interlock detects blood alcohol content (BAC) equal to or greater than the pre-set 0.02% in the driver's breath sample provided for analysis.

Is it possible to bypass an alcohol interlock?

Interlocks approved for use in WA have physical and functional elements which prevent the device from being bypassed. It is an offence to tamper or circumvent, or attempt to tamper or circumvent the operation of an interlock or to cause or permit another person to do so. The penalty for doing so is \$2500.

Requirements for drivers in the WA Alcohol Interlock Scheme

- Maintain a valid authorisation to drive i.e. do not have their driver's licence suspended, cancelled or let it expire.
- Only drive a vehicle in which a properly functioning, approved alcohol interlock has been installed by an accredited service provider.
- Any breaches recorded by an alcohol interlock will be attributed to the interlock-restricted driver contracted to use that device.

Breaching the above requirements may result in an extension to a driver's restricted driving period and may require participation in alcohol assessment and treatment delivered by the Mental Health Commission.

What is my legal blood alcohol limit when driving?

Alcohol offenders and interlock-restricted drivers are legally required to have a zero percentage BAC when driving. This requirement will remain until you successfully complete the Scheme.



What happens if I fail a breath test prior to starting the vehicle?

Every time the interlock registers a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) equal to or greater than 0.02% it records a trigger and the ignition is locked. If your initial BAC reading is between 0.02% and 0.05% BAC you will be locked out from starting the vehicle for 5 minutes. If your initial BAC reading is 0.05% or over, you will be locked out from starting the vehicle for 30 minutes. If you fail a retest, regardless of the BAC reading you will be locked out from starting the vehicle for 30 minutes.

In some instances, an inaccurate alcohol reading may occur due to the consumption or use of products which may contain alcohol or potentially enhance the alcohol reading. These products can include but not limited to hand sanitiser, perfume or cologne, mouthwash, hairspray, medication and certain food. These products generate high levels of BAC readings only for a short period of time. It is recommended that a period of at least 20 minutes has passed before providing another breath sample.

Note: Any failed breath test recorded on the interlock device will be attributed to the interlock-restricted driver, regardless of who provided the breath sample.

What happens if I fail a random re-test?

Failure to provide the breath sample within the specified timeframe is recorded as a breach and will trigger the vehicles hazard lights and horn until the breath sample is provided or the ignition is turned off. If the ignition is turned off without providing a sample the driver will still be required to provide a sample prior to re-starting the vehicle. It is recommended the vehicle is brought to a stop in a safe location to provide a breath sample.

Can I have an alcohol interlock installed in more than one vehicle?

Yes, if you own or drive more than one vehicle, you may install an approved alcohol interlock in each vehicle. Only the data from one interlock will be used to monitor your compliance with the Scheme. You must nominate which vehicle is installed with the interlock that will be monitored for the purposes of the Scheme.

Servicing or repair of a relevant vehicle?

When the interlock is installed the provider will place warning sticker/s in the engine bay (near the battery) advising that the accredited service provider must be contacted prior to any service or repair being undertaken, that may result in power to the interlock being disconnected.

If the power supply to the approved alcohol interlock is disconnected (including a flat battery), the interlock will record this as a tampering event which will result in a breach of the Scheme. If the participants vehicle requires servicing or repair, they must inform the mechanic or repairer that the vehicle is fitted with an interlock prior to any work being performed.

The Interlock Restricted licence holder is required to maintain a licensed roadworthy vehicle during their Restricted Driving Period.

What happens if I remove the approved alcohol interlock device from my vehicle?

If the interlock is removed from the vehicle prior to completing the Scheme, the current restricted driving period will terminate and a new restricted driving period will commence from the date you have an interlock installed in a nominated vehicle by an ASP. If a nominated vehicle is replaced with another vehicle for any reason, the interlock must be removed and reinstalled in the replacement vehicle on the same day. If the approved interlock isn't reinstalled on the same day this is a breach of the requirements of the Scheme. A further 180 continuous days (without any breaches) will be the minimum period before the new restricted driving period can be completed.

Can I privately purchase an alcohol interlock device to install in my vehicle?

Alcohol Interlocks can be purchased privately and installed into any vehicle. Private individuals, employers or companies may choose to install a device to reduce insurance premiums, safe guard their drivers and their vehicles. When purchasing an alcohol interlock you will need to decide whether you purchase an;

- Approved alcohol interlock device from an accredited service provider
- Off the shelf model (not approved for the alcohol interlock scheme).

What happens if I don't present the vehicle for the scheduled servicing?

If the interlocked vehicle is not presented for a scheduled inspection, the interlock will permanently lock out the vehicle ignition preventing it from being started seven days after the scheduled inspection date. In the event of permanent lockout an override code must be purchased from your ASP to unlock the vehicle ignition and the vehicle must be presented for an inspection within a limited time determined by the ASP. If the vehicle is not presented within the specified time frame it will re-enter the permanent lock out mode.

Can someone else present the vehicle for servicing?

Yes, only on one occasion, this will be recorded. Participants are required to personally present their interlocked vehicle for every scheduled inspection for the duration of their participation in the Scheme. Failure to attend in person on more than one occasion may result in an extension to the restricted driving period and/or a requirement to attend Alcohol Assessment and Treatment.

Are there exemptions from alcohol assessment and treatment?

There are no exemptions from the requirement to complete alcohol assessment and treatment. Trained alcohol and drug counsellors provide services throughout Western Australia. Call the Mental Health Commission's Alcohol Interlock Scheme Booking Service on 1800 722 362 between 7.00am and 7.00pm for information on what services are provided in your location.

I'm exempt due to distance from an accredited service provider; can I still participate in the alcohol interlock scheme?

Yes. You can attend your nearest licensing centre or regional agent and request the Interlock condition to be added to your driver's licence. You should read the Alcohol Interlock Scheme participant manual prior to making the application to ensure you are aware of all the requirements to complete the scheme.

I have an interstate licence with an interlock condition. What rules apply to me?

New residents to WA If you are relocating to WA to live you will need to make an application for the grant of a WA driver's licence, you may be granted a WA interlock-restricted drivers licence.

Note: Any previous participation in another jurisdictions alcohol interlock scheme or program cannot be recognised in WA.

Visitors If you are a visitor in WA and have an interlock-restricted licence from the eastern states you should contact your home state licensing authority to find out what the rules are while you are travelling.

I have an interlock restricted extraordinary licence can I drive to my scheduled inspection?

Drivers with an interlock restricted extraordinary licence must comply with any conditions the court has imposed on the routes and times at which the person is authorised to drive. Interlock restricted extraordinary licence holders are permitted to drive vehicles to attend scheduled services, but must drive via the most direct convenient route to the premises of the service provider. This provision will not show on the extraordinary licence as it is provided for in the *Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Regulations 2014*.

What if I reoffend after completing the alcohol interlock scheme?

If a person is convicted in WA of a subsequent alcohol interlock offence they will be required to complete the scheme again.

I am an interlock restricted driver can I learn to drive in a vehicle without an approved interlock fitted?

No, an interlock-restricted driver can only drive or learn to drive in a vehicle fitted with an approved alcohol interlock.

Completing the Alcohol Interlock Scheme

Participants in the Scheme can only exit when they have satisfied the CEO of Department of Transport of the following:

- Completed the minimum participation period.
- Completed alcohol assessment and treatment (if applicable).
- Demonstrated the separation of drinking and driving for a continuous period of a minimum 180 days (no breach events recorded).

Minimum Participation Periods

The period of time a participant in the Scheme is required to have an interlock installed in their vehicle is referred to as the restricted driving period. The minimum restricted driving periods are:

- Permanently disqualified alcohol offenders who have been granted an extraordinary licence – 3 years.
- Disqualified alcohol offenders who have been granted an extraordinary licence – the duration of the extraordinary licence.
- A person who serves his or her period of disqualification and is subsequently granted a driver's licence – a continuous 180 days immediately after being granted their licence.



For any queries about the scheme

Telephone: 13 11 56 (interpreters available)

Calling from overseas: +61 8 9427 6404

Fax: 1300 669 995

TTY: 08 9216 8484

Department of Transport website:

www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs

Road Safety Commission website:

www.rsc.wa.gov.au