

NWT ALCOHOL IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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WHAT DOES AN ALCOHOL IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE DO?

An interlock screens a driver's breath. If the driver's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) exceeds a pre-set limit, the vehicle will not start. The device also requires samples of the driver's breath while the vehicle is running. If the pre-set limit of alcohol is exceeded, an alarm will sound until the driver pulls over and turns off the vehicle.

DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

No. If you are eligible, you may apply to shorten your driving prohibition by having an alcohol interlock installed. If you choose not to participate, you will serve your full driving prohibition.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?

You may apply to the program if you:

- are a resident of the Northwest Territories;
- have been convicted of impaired driving under the *Criminal Code of Canada*;
- would be eligible for a Class 5P or higher NT drivers licence;
- are not currently serving a drivers licence suspension, prohibition, or disqualification other than for your impaired driving conviction; and
- have paid all outstanding fines.

WHO WILL PROVIDE INTERLOCK SERVICES IN THE NWT?

Alcolock Canada (also known as Guardian Interlock Services), a nationally recognized company, will provide interlock services for the Northwest Territories using local service providers. For an up-to-date list of local service providers, go to http://www.dot.gov.nt.ca/live/pages/wpPages/Ignition_Interlock_Service_Providers.aspx

IS THERE AN APPLICATION FEE?

No.

CAN I JOIN THE PROGRAM IF I DON'T LIVE IN A COMMUNITY WITH A LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDER?

Yes. The NWT *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program* is open to all NT residents, but you must attend regular service appointments, which may require travel to the location of the service provider. In future, the program may expand to additional communities.

CAN I HAVE AN INTERLOCK INSTALLED IN MORE THAN ONE VEHICLE?

Yes, with the approval of the Registrar. As a participant, you may only operate vehicles equipped with an interlock registered to your name and you will be responsible for any additional costs.

CAN AN INTERLOCK BE INSTALLED IN A WORK VEHICLE OR ANOTHER VEHICLE THAT DOESN'T BELONG TO ME?

Yes, with written permission of the registered owner.

CAN OTHER PEOPLE, SUCH AS FAMILY MEMBERS, OPERATE MY INTERLOCK-EQUIPPED VEHICLE?

Yes. Your local service facility will provide training. However, the device must still be used to start and continue operating the vehicle, and you are responsible for all data recorded by any device registered under your name.

MY INTERLOCK REGISTERED A WARN OR FAIL, BUT SOMEONE ELSE WAS DRIVING. WHAT DO I DO?

You are responsible for all breath tests, even if someone else (including a family member) was using the device. The warn or fail will be treated as though you were the driver.

WHAT TYPES OF VEHICLES CAN BE INSTALLED WITH AN INTERLOCK?

With some exceptions, passenger vehicles with enclosed cabs are eligible for interlock installation. Service providers may charge an additional fee for installation in certain luxury vehicles. Open vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, and most heavy equipment, are not eligible. For more information, please contact your local service facility.

CAN AN ALCOHOL INTERLOCK STOP MY CAR WHILE I'M DRIVING?

No. An alcohol interlock cannot stop a moving vehicle. Instead, if the device records a failed or skipped breath test, an alarm horn will be activated until an acceptable breath sample is provided or the vehicle is turned off.

WHAT IF I AM LOCKED OUT IN THE WINTER? CAN I START MY VEHICLE IN AN EMERGENCY?

Approved interlocks are equipped with an emergency override, allowing participants to start their vehicle in an emergency situation where life or property are threatened. Any use of the emergency override function must be followed up with a full inspection and report. Misuse may result in your removal from the program and a fine of \$1995.

I HAVE A RESPIRATORY CONDITION. CAN I STILL USE AN ALCOHOL INTERLOCK?

Yes. Your local service facility will provide training and technical support.

HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE A BREATH SAMPLE?

Breath tests are required at random intervals while the vehicle is running.

I AM A PARENT OR BUSINESS OWNER INTERESTED IN INSTALLING ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS IN MY VEHICLES. CAN I JOIN THE PROGRAM?

No, but that does not prevent you from installing the device in your personal or company vehicle(s). Only those individuals with an impaired driving conviction under the *Criminal Code of Canada* may apply to the program. If you wish to install interlock for personal reasons, contact your local service facility.

DO I HAVE TO PROVIDE BREATH SAMPLES WHILE I'M DRIVING? ISN'T THAT DISTRACTED DRIVING?

Drivers will always have ample time to safely pull over to the side of the road prior to providing a breath sample.

MY INTERLOCK REGISTERED A WARN OR FAIL, BUT I HADN'T BEEN DRINKING. WHAT DO I DO?

Interlocks respond only to alcohol. Certain foods or mouthwash may leave trace amounts resulting in a warn or fail reading. Standard training at your local service facility will enable you to avoid this.

WHAT WILL STOP SOMEONE ELSE FROM PROVIDING A BREATH SAMPLE FOR AN INTERLOCK-RESTRICTED DRIVER?

Providing a breath sample on behalf of an interlock-restricted driver is both impractical and illegal. Advancements in ignition interlock technology make it difficult to tamper with an alcohol interlock or for an untrained person to provide a breath sample. Under NWT legislation, both the interlock-restricted driver and the person providing the breath sample may be fined.

CAN I DRIVE IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS USING MY INTERLOCK-RESTRICTED NWT DRIVERS LICENCE?

Other jurisdictions may not recognize your participation in the program and find your drivers licence invalid. The Department of Transportation recommends that you consult the jurisdiction in which you'll be travelling prior to departure.

HOW WILL IGNITION INTERLOCK MAKE NWT ROADS SAFER?

Ignition interlock devices keep impaired drivers off the road. Studies show that ignition interlock, while installed, reduces impaired driving offences for both first-time and repeat offenders. In Alberta, first-time offenders using interlock showed an 89 per cent reduction in impaired driving offences when compared to reinstated and ineligible drivers.

I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM. WHO CAN I CONTACT?

For more information about the NWT *Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program*, please contact Road Licensing and Safety (toll-free at 1-888-803-8773). If your questions relate to the use of your interlock device, including the download of data, please contact your local service facility.

WHEN DOES THE NWT ALCOHOL IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM COME INTO EFFECT?

Applications to the program are now being accepted.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

Participation in the program costs approximately \$125 per month, plus installation and removal fees. Users are responsible for all costs.

HOW WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM AFFECT MY FAMILY?

Certified workers at your local service centre will train family members to safely operate your equipped vehicle. Ignition interlock programs can assist families by removing the burden of “chauffeuring” suspended drivers.

I HOLD AN INTERLOCK-RESTRICTED DRIVERS LICENCE FROM ANOTHER JURISDICTION. CAN I GET AN NWT DRIVERS LICENCE?

Yes, if your previous jurisdiction lifts all existing suspensions. Your previous jurisdiction may require you to satisfy other conditions, like the completion of remedial courses.

Please contact Road Licensing and Safety Headquarters (toll-free at 1-888-803-8773) before visiting your local issuing site. Be prepared to provide all associated documents and records, including:

- Your name and date of birth;
- Your driver’s abstract;
- Your current licence, or confirmation of past licensing; and
- Confirmation of any previous participation in an ignition interlock program.

I HOLD AN INTERLOCK-RESTRICTED NWT DRIVERS LICENCE. CAN I GET A DRIVERS LICENCE IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION?

Please contact the driver licensing authority of your new home jurisdiction to discuss their licensing requirements.

CAN I BE TICKETED FOR AN INTERLOCK OFFENCE?

Yes. Like any driver, interlock-restricted drivers must follow all rules of the road. You may be ticketed and fined if you:

- Use an interlock contrary to the service provider’s instructions (e.g., continuing to drive after a failed breath test) (\$345);

- Fail to report interlock damage or malfunction (\$345);
- Operate a vehicle without an interlock (\$1955);
- Provide a false breath sample, or provide a breath sample on behalf of an interlock-restricted driver (\$1955);
- Misuse interlock's emergency override function (\$1955); or
- Tamper with an interlock (\$1955).

WHAT IS A PROGRAM VIOLATION?

Program violations include, but are not limited to:

- alcohol warns and fails;
- failure to provide a breath sample during a random running retest;
- failure to stop after recording a BAC fail during a random running retest;
- failure to attend service appointment
- misuse of interlock's emergency override function; and
- tampering.

Program violations may extend your time in the program. Serious violations may result in your removal from the program and the cancellation of your drivers licence.