

IGNITION INTERLOCK AND “WARN RANGE” LICENCE SUSPENSIONS

As of May 1, 2009, Ontario has targeted measures to help take more drinking drivers off the roads. Drivers who register a BAC from 0.05 to 0.08 (known as the “warn range”) lose their licence at roadside for 3, 7 or 30 days. Consequences also get tougher for repeat occurrences. Drivers who receive a 30-day licence suspension will also automatically have an ignition interlock condition placed on their licence for six months.

How is the licence condition removed?

► **Convicted Impaired Drivers**  
Drivers convicted of a drinking and driving related offence under the Criminal Code of Canada must apply to the Ministry of Transportation to have the condition removed from his or her licence.

If the driver has completed the minimum period (one year for a first offence or three years for a second offence) without any program violations (tampering/driving without/missed appointment with service provider), the ignition interlock condition will be removed.

Third-time offenders will have the condition on their licence for a variable period (e.g. 1-year, 3-years or indefinitely) if it is reinstated after a minimum 10-year suspension.

Violations during the installation period will be reported and will result in extending the amount of time the licence will be subject to an ignition interlock condition.

If the driver does not apply for removal of the licence condition, it will remain on the licence. As long as the condition remains on the licence, the driver will only be able to drive vehicles that are equipped with an approved ignition interlock, or be subject to penalties under the Highway Traffic Act.

An application form to have the condition removed will be mailed to drivers 15 days prior to their condition removal date. Drivers may also complete an application form at a Service Ontario Office.

► **Drivers Suspended for Registering in the “Warn Range” (effective May 1, 2009)**  
Drivers who are suspended for registering a BAC of 0.05 to 0.08 three or more times in a five-year period do not need to apply to the Ministry of Transportation to have the condition removed from your licence.

If the driver has completed the minimum 6-month period without any program violations (tampering/driving without/missed appointment with service provider), the ignition interlock condition will be removed. Violations during the installation period will be reported and will result in extending the amount of time the licence will be subject to an ignition interlock condition.

What are the penalties for not complying with the ignition interlock program?

You can check if a driver has an ignition interlock condition on his or her licence by contacting the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) at 1-900-565-6555 (\$2.50 per check) or accessing MTO’s website - Driver Licence Check (\$2.00 per check).

Drivers who have an ignition interlock installed by the service provider are required to sign a participant agreement acknowledging the terms and conditions of the installation.

Drivers who operate a motor vehicle in violation of an ignition interlock licence condition, will have their vehicle impounded by police for a period of 7 days and may be subject to further charges under the Criminal Code (Canada) (CCC) or Highway Traffic Act (HTA). Those who drive while their licence is suspended for a CCC conviction, will have their vehicle impounded for a period of 45 days for a first impoundment, 90 days for a second impoundment and 180 days for a third or subsequent impoundment, and may be charged with a further offence under the CCC or HTA.

Ignition Interlock violations for tampering, missed appointments or driving without a device will be reported to the Ministry of Transportation. This includes Highway Traffic Act convictions and reports of tampering from the service

provider. Program violations will increase the amount of time the condition remains on the licence.

Drivers convicted of driving without an ignition interlock or for tampering with the device will face fines under the Highway Traffic Act ranging from:

- \$200 - \$20,000 for commercial vehicles
- \$200 - \$1,000 for other motor vehicles

Vehicle owners who knowingly allow a person with an ignition interlock condition to drive their vehicle may also be convicted under the Highway Traffic Act.

Who pays the cost of an ignition interlock?

Drivers subject to an ignition interlock condition are responsible for all installation and maintenance costs for the device.

The service provider will provide related information, including fees, when a driver registers for the program. For installation information and costs, please call:

**ALCOLOCK**  
1-866-OK-TO-DRIVE or  
1-866-658-6374



There are about 13,000 drinking and driving convictions recorded annually in Ontario. Approximately eighty per cent of convicted drinking drivers are first-time offenders.

Ontario’s measures to combat drinking and driving include increased suspension periods for repeat offenders, a mandatory assessment and education or treatment program, increased fines and vehicle impoundment for those who continue to drive while suspended, and an Ignition Interlock program.



Ontario’s  
IGNITION  
INTERLOCK  
Program





## REDUCED SUSPENSION PROGRAM

The Reduced Suspension with Ignition Interlock Conduct Review Program allows eligible drivers convicted for a first-time of an alcohol-impaired driving offence under the Criminal Code on or after August 3, 2010 to reduce their licence suspension in return for meeting specific requirements, such as the mandatory installation of an approved ignition interlock device in their vehicle.

Eligible drivers must:

- Complete the assessment component of the Remedial Measures Program
- Establish proof of a lease agreement for an approved Ignition Interlock Device
- Be reinstated from other licence suspensions
- Pay any outstanding fees or administrative monetary penalties

\*\*\* Drivers eligible for Stream A of the Program must complete the requirements above prior to the expiry of their suspension period \*\*\*

Program participants must arrange to have the ignition interlock device installed within 30 days of conditional licence reinstatement. Failure to do so will result in removal from the Program and re-suspension.

More information on the Reduced Suspension Program is available at [www.ontario.ca/drivesober](http://www.ontario.ca/drivesober).

### What is an ignition interlock device?

An ignition interlock is an in-car alcohol breath screening device that prevents a vehicle from starting if it detects a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over a pre-set limit of .02 (i.e., 20 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood).

The device is located inside the vehicle, near the driver's seat, and is connected to the engine's ignition system.

### How does an ignition interlock work?

Before starting the vehicle, a driver must blow into the ignition interlock. If the driver's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is above the pre-set limit, the vehicle will not start.

Once the vehicle is started, the ignition interlock requires the driver to provide breath samples at random times while the engine is running. If a sample is not provided, or if the BAC exceeds the limit, the ignition interlock will issue a warning, record the event and activate specific alarm systems (e.g., lights flashing, horn honking, etc.), until the ignition is turned off.

### How does Ontario's Ignition Interlock Program work?

Drivers will be subject to Ontario's Ignition Interlock Program if they are:

- ▶ convicted of a drinking and driving related offence under the Criminal Code of Canada;
- ▶ suspended for registering a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.05 to 0.08 three or more times in a five-year period (effective May 1, 2009).

After serving the provincial sanctions, including licence suspensions and a mandatory remedial program, all drivers convicted of drinking and driving offences that are eligible to have their driver's licence reinstated will have an ignition interlock condition ("I") placed on their Ontario driver's licence:

- ▶ **First-time offenders** will have an ignition interlock condition on their licence for a minimum of 1 year.
- ▶ **Second-time offenders** will have the condition for a minimum of 3 years.
- ▶ **Third-time offenders** will have the condition on their licence for a variable period (e.g. 1-year, 3-years or indefinitely) if it is reinstated after a minimum 10-year suspension.

The program does not apply to fourth-time offenders, as their licence will never be reinstated. Drivers who are suspended for registering a BAC of 0.05 to 0.08 three or more times in a five-year period will have an ignition interlock condition placed on their licence for six months after serving their 30 day licence suspension and paying the administrative monetary penalty.

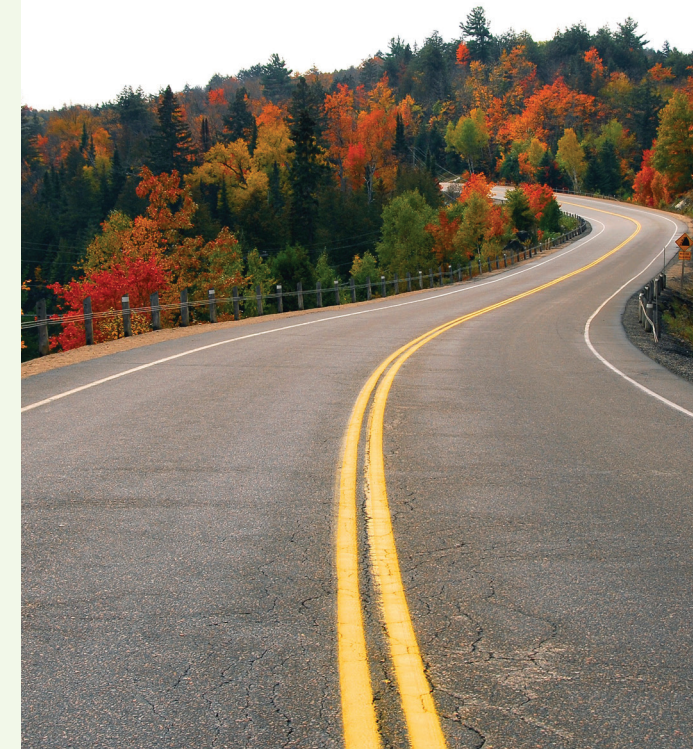
Drivers who choose to drive while their licence is subject to an ignition interlock condition must register with an approved interlock service provider to have the ignition interlock installed. The device must be inspected regularly by the service provider.

Drivers who choose not to install an ignition interlock must not drive until the condition is removed from their licence.

### Who is required to have the ignition interlock installed?

Drivers that are convicted of a drinking and driving related offence under the Criminal Code of Canada or suspended for registering a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.05 to 0.08 three or more times in a five-year period (effective May 1, 2009) must have the ignition interlock installed after their licence is reinstated if they want to drive. Individuals can choose not to drive until the ignition interlock condition is removed from their licence.

The device is not removable (it is connected to the engine's ignition system) and must be used by anyone who drives the vehicle, including family and friends.



For installation, please call

**ALCOLOCK**

**1-866-OK-TO-DRIVE or 1-866-658-6374**

[alcolock.net](http://alcolock.net)

For more information contact  
the Ministry of Transportation

**1-800-387-3445 or 416-235-2999**

[www.ontario.ca/drivesober](http://www.ontario.ca/drivesober)