

Our Safety Our Future

Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy
2007-2016

Tasmania's Trial of Alcohol Interlocks

Information for volunteer participating drivers



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Tasmania's Trial of Alcohol Interlocks	3
3. What does an alcohol interlock do?	3
4. The 8 Steps to participating in the Alcohol Interlock Trial	4
5. Other important information	6
Compliance with Tasmania's Laws and Regulations	6
Authorised participants in the trial	6
Violation of trial conditions	6
Privacy	7
Cost of the trial of alcohol interlocks	7
Proper use and servicing of the alcohol interlocks	7
Seeking Advice on the 'Deed of Release'	8
Interstate travel	8
Moving interstate	8
6. Problem solving	9
7. Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks - Terms Explained	10
8. Key Contacts	11
Appendix 1 – Summary of Trial Conditions – Agreement to participate in Trial of Alcohol Interlocks	13



1. Introduction

Now that you have agreed to participate in the 'Tasmanian Trial Of Alcohol Interlocks' there is more information you will need to know about the trial and your responsibilities. The following information will assist you:

2. Tasmania's Trial of Alcohol Interlocks

Tasmania's Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) is conducting the trial of alcohol ignition interlocks to assess the impact they have on volunteer drivers with a past conviction for a drink driving offence or offences.

The trial is one of the new actions to be undertaken as a complementary initiative under the Tasmanian Road Safety Strategy 2007-2016, funded by the Road Safety Levy.

Tasmania will conduct the alcohol interlock trial during 2008/09 involving 30-40 volunteer drivers whose nominated vehicles will be fitted with interlocks for 6 months. At regular intervals during that time data will be collected from the participants and their interlocks. Participating drivers will not have to pay for installation, hire or removal of the interlocks or any other administrative costs associated with the trial.

Following successful completion of the 6 month trial the alcohol interlock will be removed and after a final assessment interview and an examination of data collected from the interlock, 6 months of the zero alcohol licence condition will be removed from the participant's licence.

3. What does an alcohol interlock do?

An alcohol interlock is fitted to the car's ignition and measures the driver's breath for alcohol. When alcohol is detected the interlock prevents the car from starting.

If the driver fails an initial breath test the alcohol interlock will show how long he or she must wait before another test can be taken.

After the vehicle is started the driver must also blow into the alcohol interlock at random intervals to ensure they still have no alcohol in their blood system. The driver must ensure he or she does not attempt to blow into the interlock whilst the vehicle is moving. **Pull over!**

The alcohol interlock keeps an electronic record every time it is used. This information, including records on blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels, will be used by the evaluator to assist in the assessment of the trial and may be used by the Registrar to determine whether or not to reduce the zero alcohol condition on the person's driver's licence at the end of the trial.

The alcohol interlock will record all attempts to tamper with it.

If someone attempts to disconnect it, or there are breath tests that have failed, then it will repeatedly warn the driver by sounding an alarm and flashing the hazard lights.

If these warnings are ignored the alcohol interlock will lock the car down completely making it impossible to start. The only person who can re-start the car is the interlock service agent.



It is extremely important that anyone who drives your nominated car fitted with an alcohol interlock (including family, friends or colleagues) understands how to use it. Consequently, you should take any other regular driver of your vehicle with you to the initial interlock training session.

4. The 8 Steps to participating in the Alcohol Interlock Trial

These are the 8 steps that you, as a participating driver, must undertake if you want to participate in the alcohol interlock trial and to drive legally.

If there are any aspects or requirements of the trial that you do not understand, please contact Land Transport Safety Policy Branch (ph 03 6233 2630) and they will be happy to advise you.

Step 1

Attend an alcohol interlock service agent for installation of the interlock in your nominated vehicle and attend training.

A project officer from DIER's Land Transport Safety Policy Branch (LTSP) will contact you. They will provide you with further advice about the Interlock trial and arrange for you to attend an interlock service agent for installation and training.

A training session will occur at the time the interlock is installed. You should take any other person who might also drive your vehicle with the interlock fitted, with you to this training session.

Step 2

Sign the form to acknowledge the interlock is installed.

The alcohol interlock service agent will return your signed form to the Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks. He will notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles you are ready to commence the trial and the Registrar will note on your driver's licence that you are a participant.

This means that whenever you drive during the trial it must only be in your nominated vehicle fitted with an alcohol interlock.

Step 3

Retain any handout materials about how to use the alcohol interlock.

At the initial training session you will be given handout material about how to use the interlock including "who to contact in case of problems". It is important that you keep this information, as it will assist you to drive legally and safely with the alcohol interlock fitted.

Step 4

Attend scheduled maintenance services for the duration of the trial as instructed by the service agent.

The service agent who delivers training will advise you about attending regular servicing appointments. Services will be monthly at first but may be extended to two monthly if you show you are using the interlock properly. Failure to attend nominated appointments may result in you being removed from the trial and not having your zero BAC driver licence condition reduced.

Step 5

The Trial evaluators (UTAS) will contact you to make arrangements to attend scheduled assessment interviews.

Aspects of the trial will be monitored and evaluated. These will involve you attending assessment interview sessions with UTAS staff that will be arranged with you at various stages during the trial. Failure to attend scheduled evaluation interviews that you agree to may result in you being removed from the trial and not having your zero BAC driver licence condition reduced.

Step 6

Attend any final interviews arranged with the trial evaluator

Step 7

Attend an appointment with the alcohol interlock service agent to have the interlock removed from your vehicle

Step 8

Have your licence re-issued with new conditions.

After successfully completing the trial the Registrar will advise you what conditions remain on your driver licence.

Although your zero BAC licence condition may be reduced by 6 months you may still continue to be required to drive with that condition for a period of time. If in doubt, please check your licence condition at a Service Tasmania outlet or by contacting DIER's Driver Licensing Branch on (03 6233 5216).

After the trial has finished you will no longer be able to continue to drive with the alcohol interlock under the same arrangements as in the trial. However, you can make arrangements with an interlock supplier for private hire of an interlock.



5. Other important information

Compliance with Tasmania's Traffic Laws and Regulations

Participants in the trial must comply with all legislative requirements, laws, regulations and rules, including, all traffic laws that normally apply to them under Tasmanian law.

Because you are on a zero BAC licence condition, participation in the trial does not stop you from being charged with an offence for exceeding zero BAC when driving. Your participation in the trial is not a defence for any breach of Tasmania's legislative requirements, including driver licence conditions.

The alcohol interlock will allow you to start your vehicle even though you record a low level BAC less than 0.02%. If you go ahead and drive when you have recorded a BAC less than 0.02% then you do so at your own risk. You will not be able to claim the fact the interlock allowed you to drive as a defence for any breach of your zero BAC licence condition or Tasmania's drink driving laws.

All interlock tests by drivers and their BAC levels are recorded in the alcohol interlock.

Authorised participants in the trial:

Only persons nominated by DIER can volunteer to participate in the trial of alcohol interlocks.

Only alcohol interlock service agents nominated by DIER can install, service or remove an alcohol interlock for the purposes of the trial.

Only the evaluator nominated by DIER can undertake the evaluation of the trial of alcohol interlocks.

When the interlock is installed, the service agent will ask you to sign a certificate verifying that the interlock has been installed and you have been trained to use it. You will be given a copy of the certificate to keep and the Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks will be advised you have had the interlock installed and you are ready to start the trial.

Violation of trial conditions

It is a violation of the trial conditions:

- to interfere or tamper with an alcohol interlock installed in a nominated vehicle for the purposes of the trial; or
- to allow another person to operate the alcohol interlock on your behalf so you can drive; or
- to knowingly allow someone else to interfere or tamper with the interlock installed in your vehicle.

Full details of the trial conditions are in the 'Deed of Release' that you will sign and are summarised in Appendix 1 at the back of this document. Any serious or regular violations of the trial conditions could result in you being removed from the trial and not having your zero BAC driver licence condition reduced.

Privacy

All private information collected and stored during the trial is subject to the provisions of *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (Tas) or the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth).

All information gathered about participants during the trial of the alcohol interlocks will be collated and retained for the information of DIER.

Participating drivers signed a 'Consent to Participate in Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks' so that private information stored by the Registrar could be released to the trial evaluator, LTSP Branch staff and if necessary, to the interlock service agents.

Cost of the trial of alcohol interlocks

DIER will pay for all alcohol interlock services. This includes payment for lease, installation, servicing and removal of the interlock as well as costs associated with training. DIER will also pay for your trial evaluation and assessments.

Participating drivers will not be charged for services relating to the trial that are provided by State government agencies.

NOTE: Participants in the trial will be required to pay for the following:

- Any costs associated with damage or loss to the alcohol interlocks arising from the deliberate or involuntary actions of the participant or other persons, whilst installed in their nominated vehicle; and
- Any serious violations that result in an early service recall. These include trying to circumvent or tamper with the interlock, refusing a breath test, jump starting the vehicle or disconnecting the vehicle's battery for more than 20 minutes.

Participants should check with their comprehensive motor vehicle insurer to enquire about insurance coverage and in particular, in case of theft and damage to or loss of the interlock in a crash.

Participants in the trial may incur minor costs associated with attending service appointments and attendance at evaluation interviews will involve small amounts of time.

Proper Use and Servicing of the Alcohol Interlock

The alcohol interlock must be serviced each month or at other such intervals advised by the interlock supplier or their service agent.

A service visit includes inspection and maintenance of the interlock and its wiring and re-calibration of the device. In addition, information about how you have used the interlock will also be downloaded and filed for later use by the evaluators. If this information shows that you have been using the interlock correctly for the first few months, the interlock supplier may arrange for your service period to be extended eg two monthly.

It is extremely important that anyone who drives your car fitted with an alcohol interlock knows how to use it correctly and follows the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure you take them to the initial interlock training session.

If any attempt is made to tamper with or disconnect the alcohol interlock, it will repeatedly warn the driver. If these warnings are ignored the interlock will lock down the car completely, making it impossible to start. The only person who can re-start the car is the service agent.

A sober person MUST not start the car for a participating driver who has been drinking alcohol. The alcohol interlock is designed to test randomly, and will at some time later ask the participating driver to blow into the interlock.

If you need to have your car serviced (eg by a mechanic) whilst it has an alcohol interlock fitted, then ask your interlock supplier or the service agent how the service can be done without interfering with the interlock.

Seeking advice on the 'Deed of Release'

As participation in the Trial of Alcohol Interlocks involves the signing of a legally binding 'Deed of Release', you may wish to seek advice on the contents of the 'Deed', before signing it.

Interstate travel

Under no circumstances must you remove the alcohol interlock from Tasmania without the knowledge and/or consent of the Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks.

If a participating driver with an alcohol interlock plans to drive interstate, he or she should make arrangements with both LTSP's Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks and the interlock supplier, for servicing the interlock interstate.

If no interstate arrangements are made then the participating driver must return to Tasmania for scheduled monthly service checks. Failure to attend services may result in your removal from the trial and not having your zero BAC drivers licence condition reduced.

Moving interstate

Tasmania's Trial of Alcohol Interlocks is only being conducted in this state. Therefore, if you intend to move interstate permanently you will no longer be able to participate in the trial. You must contact the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in advance of your intended move to advise that you will no longer be able to comply with your licence condition and to arrange for the alcohol interlock to be removed from your vehicle.

Furthermore, you must not remove the alcohol interlock from Tasmania without the knowledge and/or consent of the Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks. Unauthorised removal or theft of the alcohol interlock could result in serious criminal charges being imposed.



6. Problem Solving

What has happened	What you do
<p>You have blown into the alcohol interlock and the car has not started.</p>	<p>There are two possible causes.</p> <p>You have not blown enough air into the alcohol interlock.</p> <p>Try again.</p> <p>Or the interlock has detected alcohol on your breath.</p> <p>If there is alcohol on your breath, the interlock will, after a short lockout period, instruct you to blow into it again.</p>
<p>Your second breath test fails.</p> <p>The car does not start because alcohol has been detected.</p>	<p>The alcohol interlock has shut down again but this time it will be for longer.</p> <p>After this time you must do a third breath test.</p>
<p>The alcohol interlock asks you for another breath test after the car has started.</p> <p>This may happen while you are driving</p>	<p>You must blow into the alcohol interlock.</p> <p>If you are driving you must pull over to the side of the road and stop.</p> <p>If you don't blow into the interlock within the required time, the horn will sound and lights will flash until the engine is turned off.</p>
<p>If you attempt to start the car without following the manufacturer's instructions, the alcohol interlock will request a breath test from you.</p>	<p>You must do a breath test by blowing into the alcohol interlock.</p> <p>The interlock will also begin a seven day countdown to a date for an extra service test.</p> <p>So contact your interlock service agent.</p> <p>If the interlock is not serviced it will shut down the car completely.</p>
<p>Between services there has been a number of failed breath tests or power has been disconnected from the interlock.</p>	<p>The alcohol interlock will start a seven day countdown to an extra service date.</p> <p>You must arrange for the interlock to be serviced within this time or it will completely lock down the car.</p>
<p>Important: Ignoring the warning alarm, not following the manufacturer's instructions or disconnecting power to the interlock are not permitted.</p> <p>These actions are recorded by the interlock and reported to the Project Manager Alcohol Interlocks. Serious or regular violations may result in your removal from the trial and not having your zero BAC driver licence condition reduced.</p>	

7. Tasmania's Trial of Alcohol Interlocks – Terms Explained

Alcohol interlock

An alcohol interlock prevents the car starting if the driver has been drinking alcohol over a pre-set level. It is fitted to the ignition and the driver has to blow into the alcohol interlock so that it can detect whether or not there is an excess amount of alcohol on the driver's breath.

A driver who is participating in the trial and who drives with excess alcohol in their system, without an alcohol interlock or attempts to tamper with it or disconnect it, will be violating the conditions of his or her licence and may face penalties in addition to being removed from the trial.

Alcohol interlock service agent

An alcohol interlock service agent is appointed by the interlock supplier to install and service the approved interlocks for participating drivers. The service agents are:

HOBART:

Hobart Automotive Repairs
287 Liverpool Street, Hobart 7000
Tele: 03 6234 7766
Mob: 0407 687 823
Email: wes@specialistauto.com.au

LAUNCESTON:

Car Accessories & Installs
267 Wellington Street, Launceston 7250
Tele: 03 6344 2727
Fax: 03 6343 5937
www.caraccessoriesinstalls.com
Email: car.a.i@bigpond.net.au

Alcohol interlock supplier

An approved alcohol interlock supplier, through an interlock service agent, supplies the alcohol interlocks used in the trial. The two interlock suppliers approved by DIER for the trial are:

HOBART: Guardian Interlock Systems Australasia Pty Ltd. (1300 881 005)

LAUNCESTON: Draeger Safety Pacific Pty Ltd (1300 780 689)

Blood alcohol concentration or BAC

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is how much alcohol a person has in their blood.

A driver participating in the trial must have a zero BAC.

DIER

Is the Tasmanian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources which is conducting the Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks.

Evaluator

The evaluator is UTAS Innovation Ltd appointed by DIER to undertake an evaluation and assessment of the Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks.

UTAS Innovation Ltd (or staff) will conduct interviews and surveys with trial participants and interpret data downloaded from the interlocks. This information will be used to report on what impact the use of the alcohol interlocks has during the trial.

LTSP or Land Transport Safety Policy Branch

Is the Branch within DIER that is managing the Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks.

Licence Condition

A licence condition is imposed by the Registrar and means the circumstances under which a driver is permitted to drive in Tasmania.

After participants have an alcohol interlock fitted to their vehicle, their licence record will be changed to indicate that they are participating in the trial. This means the holder of the licence can only drive a vehicle if it is fitted with an alcohol interlock. After successful completion of the trial the Registrar will reduce the participant's zero BAC condition by 6 months and alter the driver licence records accordingly.

Tasmanian drivers must always carry their drivers licence when driving.

Registrar

Is Tasmania's Registrar of Motor Vehicles. Amongst other powers, the Registrar has the legislative power to impose conditions on the re-instatement of a person's drivers licence, including the requirements to drive with a zero BAC and for a driver to use an alcohol interlock.

Participating driver

A participating driver is a person who has volunteered to participate in the Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks.

The participating driver can only drive a vehicle legally with a zero BAC which is a licence condition. For the purposes of the trial they can only drive a vehicle when it is fitted with an alcohol interlock that aims to protect them and other road users from the dangers of drink driving.

8. Key contacts

Interlock suppliers— if you are having difficulties operating the alcohol interlock and you need help you will need to contact:

Hobart participants

Guardian Interlock Systems: Hotline: 1300 881 005
Email: [interlocks @bigpond.com](mailto:interlocks@bigpond.com)
www.guardianinterlock.com.au

Launceston participants

Draeger Safety: Hotline: 1300 780 689
Email: customer.services@draeger.com
www.draeger.com.au/interlock

Evaluator – if you need to speak to the evaluators or their staff, please contact:

All participants

Ron Mason
School of Government, University of Tasmania
Private Bag 22 GPO HOBART 7000
Mob: 0438 289 144

Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks – if you need to ask questions about any aspect of the Tasmanian Trial of Alcohol Interlocks you should contact:

The Project Officer Alcohol Interlocks at (03) 6233 3265

Land Transport Safety Policy Branch - the branch within DIER that is conducting the Trial of Alcohol Interlocks can be contacted if necessary at:

Land Transport Safety Policy Branch on (03) 6233 2630

Registrar of Motor Vehicles – for information or advice about your drivers licence you should contact:

Registrar of Motor Vehicles on (03) 6233 5284

DIER – for other advice or information involving the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources you should contact :

DIER 1300 851 225 or www.dier.tas.gov.au

INTERNET – a copy of this leaflet can be downloaded from

www.transport.tas.gov.au/safety

APPENDIX 1
Summary of Trial conditions
Agreement to participate in Trial of Alcohol Interlocks 2008

Participating drivers will be required to sign a 'Deed of Release' that includes agreeing to specific conditions. These include, but are not limited to:

1. The Participant agrees to participate in the Trial.

In participating in the Trial the Participant agrees to:

2. Attend any meetings, information or training sessions arranged and conducted by the Suppliers of the alcohol interlock (Device) and the Trial Evaluators;
3. Respond to any surveys or interviews conducted by either the Suppliers of the Device or the Trial Evaluators;
4. At all reasonable times give the Suppliers of the Device and the Trial Evaluators access to the Participant's vehicle for the purposes of:
 - * **installing the Device;**
 - * **maintaining and servicing the Device;**
 - * **downloading data from the Device; and**
 - * **removing the device;**
5. Comply with conditions of the Trial that may be required by either the Government, the Suppliers of the Device or the Trial Evaluators;
6. Use the Device in a proper and responsible way and only as instructed by the Suppliers and manufacturers of the Device;
7. Comply with all Tasmania's legislative requirements, laws, regulations and rules, including all traffic laws;
8. Acknowledge that participating in the Trial is not a defence for any breach of Tasmania's legislative requirements, laws, regulations or rules. This includes that despite a driver with a BAC under 0.02% being able to start a vehicle with an alcohol interlock, this is no defence for violating a zero BAC drivers licence condition;
9. Not circumvent or hinder the Device, or the operation of the Device, in any manner including, using or allowing another person to operate the Device on behalf of the Participant;
10. To be responsible for any costs stemming from any serious violations that result in an early service recall. These include (but are not limited to) trying to circumvent or tamper with the interlock, refusing a breath test when requested, jump starting the vehicle or disconnecting the vehicle's battery for more than 20 minutes;
11. Not to damage, remove, abuse, steal or sell the Device;
12. To be responsible for any deliberate, wilful or wrongful (including negligent) damage to, or loss of, the Device and to indemnify the Crown accordingly;
13. To return the Device at the end of the Trial in undamaged and working order and in the same condition as it was at the commencement of the Trial;



Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

CONTACT DETAILS

**The Project Officer, Alcohol Interlocks
Land Transport Safety Policy Branch
10 Murray Street Hobart, 7000
Phone: (03) 6233 2630
or
www.dier.tas.gov.au**