

Victorian Alcohol Interlock Program

Find out what to do once you've had your licence* reissued with an 'I' (alcohol interlock) condition.

This information's for you if you're a **VicRoads managed driver**. That means you didn't need to go to court to get your licence back after a drink-driving offence, or VicRoads said you need an 'I' condition after you converted an interstate licence.

Step 1: Get your interlock installed

Find an interlock supplier

Interlocks can be supplied by:

Draeger Safety	1300 780 689
Guardian Interlock Systems	1300 881 005
Smart Start	1300 256 900

It's recommended that you contact all three providers to compare costs, locations, and services.

Get an interlock installed

On the day of your installation, organise for someone else to drive you to your chosen service agent (because you can't drive the vehicle until it has an interlock installed).

The service agent will show you how to use the interlock properly and give you instructions. If someone else will also be using the vehicle while it has the interlock, bring them too, so they can also learn.

Yes, you need an interlock

The 'I' condition won't be removed from your licence until you've used an interlock for long enough, following all the rules of the program.

You can't just wait a minimum period – you need to have an interlock installed and use it regularly.

Interstate drivers

If you've just converted an interstate licence with an interlock requirement, don't forget to contact your interstate interlock supplier to let them know you have a Victorian licence now.

Step 2: Use the interlock

When a vehicle has an interlock installed, the driver has to blow into it (with no alcohol in their breath) for the engine to start. The interlock will also ask for breath tests during a trip.

Whenever you blow into the interlock, it will record data about your reading. It'll also take a photo of the driver, so make sure you're clearly facing the camera.

Information recorded by your interlock will be reviewed by VicRoads to help them check that you've been following the program rules and are ready to have your interlock removed.

Using the Alcohol Interlock Management System (AIMS)

You can track and manage your interlock usage online, using AIMS.

To find out more and sign up for an account, visit vicroads.vic.gov.au and search "AIMS".

Costs

Your supplier will charge you for the interlock installation, monthly leasing and servicing, removal, and other services.

The supplier's also required to collect the government cost recovery fee. This fee's required, by law, to recover the cost of VicRoads delivering the interlock Program.

You might be eligible for a concession if you have a Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs concession card – visit vicroads.vic.gov.au for more information.

*Licence means any Victorian driver licence or learner permit, for cars or motorcycles.

Program rules

To progress, you need to follow **all** the rules of the Alcohol Interlock Program.

The rules are:

- Before you can apply to have your interlock removed, you need to collect a minimum number of months of alcohol interlock usage data.
- The first month is a learning month[^] to let you get used to using the interlock. You won't be penalised in this month.
- For a month to count towards your progress, you need to:
 - take all the breath tests that the interlock requests,
 - not have any confirmed violations,
 - drive the vehicle at least twice.
- If a failed reading or violation is recorded, you'll need to collect at least another five violation-free months.
- Your months don't need to be in a row, but if you don't drive at all for six months or more, you'll need to start collecting interlock data all over again.
- Your interlock has a camera, and it'll take a picture whenever you blow into the device.
 - It will be assumed that you were the driver for a certain trip, unless the photo clearly shows that someone else was driving.
- You must not tamper with the interlock.

If you have violations or don't follow any of the above rules, you will need to keep the interlock for longer.

[^]If you already had an interlock when you transferred a licence from interstate, this 'learning month' doesn't apply to you.

Failed BAC readings and violations

A 'violation' will be recorded if you:

- blow a reading of .02 or more,
- refuse to take a breath test when the device requests one, or
- tamper with the interlock.

If a violation is recorded, you'll need to collect at least another five violation-free months.

Some tips on avoiding violations:

- If you fail an initial test to start the vehicle, you have 60 minutes to re-test. A violation will be recorded if you fail or refuse the re-test.
- If you fail a breath test while driving the vehicle, or refuse a breath test while driving, you have 10 minutes to re-test. A violation will be recorded if you fail or refuse the re-test.
- Never use the interlock as a personal breathalyser to check if you're okay to drive. A failed breath test will result in a violation.
- Some foods and drinks can contain trace amounts of alcohol, so it's recommended that you only drink water in the 15 minutes before using the interlock.
- Don't leave your vehicle running and unattended, because the interlock might request a breath test that you don't notice.
- A violation may be recorded if your vehicle's battery is disconnected for 20 minutes or more.
- If you've arrived at your destination and the interlock requests a breath test, you must take the test before switching the vehicle off. A violation will be recorded if you don't re-test within 10 minutes.

Step 3: Get your interlock removed

Having an interlock removed isn't automatic – you need to apply for it, and you need to prove that you've learned to separate drinking from driving.

To be eligible, you need to have followed all the program rules for at least the minimum amount of months that apply to you.

Pre-Interlock Removal Behaviour Change Programs

You might need to complete a Behaviour Change Program (BCP) before you can have your interlock removed.

If you're not sure whether or not this applies to you, you can check using AIMS.

To find a Program provider, visit vicroads.vic.gov.au and search "BCP providers".

Apply to have your 'I' condition removed

When you're ready to have your interlock removed, you can **apply using AIMS** or **call the VicRoads Interlock Support Team** on 1300 723 790.

If you're successful, you'll get a new licence in the mail without the 'I' condition. This can take up to 10 business days.

Keep in mind that, even if you're ready to have your interlock removed, your licence might still have a 'Z' (zero BAC) condition on it.

If you're not successful, VicRoads will let you know. If that happens, we'll also explain what appeal options you have via VicRoads or the Magistrates' Court.

Visit your interlock supplier

Once you have your new licence, without the 'I' condition, visit your interlock supplier to have the device removed from your vehicle.

Take your new licence (without the 'I' condition) and your interlock removal approval letter.

Further information

<u>If you have questions about...</u>	<u>Contact...</u>
Your alcohol interlock	<p>Your interlock supplier</p> <p>VicRoads doesn't manage individual interlock issues.</p>
AIMS or the Victorian Alcohol Interlock Program	<p>VicRoads Alcohol Interlock Support Team</p> <p>1300 723 790</p> <p>alcoholinterlocks@roads.vic.gov.au</p>
A general question about driver licences, demerit points, etc	<p>VicRoads</p> <p>vicroads.vic.gov.au</p> <p>13 11 71</p> <p>TTY users: 13 36 77</p> <p>Speak and Listen users: 1300 555 727</p>