

The Victorian Alcohol Interlock Program

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 five 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 five months of interlock data again.
- The alcohol interlock camera takes an image whenever the driver blows into the device. It takes an image of all failed and refused breath tests. This will be displayed in AIMS. If another driver is responsible for the violation, you can contest the violation in AIMS
 - It will be assumed that you were the driver for a certain trip, unless the image 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.

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 15 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, drinks and products such as hand sanitisers can contain alcohol. It's recommended that you avoid using products containing alcohol, by using alcohol-free alternatives, and only drink water in the 15 minutes before using the interlock. Take note of any warnings that your supplier says about any specific products containing alcohol that may result in a failed breath test.
- Don't leave your vehicle running and unattended, or in accessory mode, because the interlock might request a breath test that you don't notice. This will be recorded as a 'refused breath test'. If you don't re-test within 15 minutes, this is a violation.
- 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 15 minutes.

Applying to get your interlock removed

- You can use AIMS or contact the VicRoads Support Centre for the Victorian Alcohol Interlock Program on **1300 723 790** to apply to have your alcohol interlock condition removed from your licence. You must apply as removal isn't automatic.
- To be eligible, you must have a current licence for at least the duration of the alcohol interlock 'I' condition period required for your offence. You also need to follow all the program rules for at least the minimum number of months that apply to you.

2-hour Pre-Interlock Removal BCP

- If you were required to do an Intensive Drink and Drug Driver Program (BCP) to get your licence back, then you will need to complete a 2-hour Pre-Interlock Removal Behaviour Change Program before you can successfully apply for removal.
- If you're not sure whether this applies to you, you can check using AIMS or contact the VicRoads Support Centre for the Victorian Alcohol Interlock Program on **1300 723790** or email **alcoholinterlocks@roads.vic.gov.au**
- To find a BCP Program provider who offers the Pre-Interlock Removal Program, visit **vicroads.vic.gov.au** and search "BCP providers". Select from the providers who offer the Intensive BCP, or you can contact the Provider that you used when completing the Intensive BCP prior to being relicensed.