

# Alcohol interlocks

This factsheet outlines the alcohol interlock programme. It explains how to get an alcohol interlock driver licence, how to have an alcohol interlock device fitted to your vehicle and how to exit the alcohol interlock programme.

## Step 1: disqualification

If you're convicted by the courts (under section 65AC of the Land Transport Act 1998) for driving offences involving alcohol, you'll be given an alcohol interlock disqualification of 28 days or more.

Any driver licence card you held before your disqualification is cancelled and you won't be entitled to a limited licence.

At the end of the alcohol interlock disqualification, you're still disqualified from driving until you've been issued with an alcohol interlock licence.

If you have any other disqualifications or suspensions, you'll have to wait for them to end too before you can get an alcohol interlock licence.

## Step 2: getting an alcohol interlock licence

After any disqualifications and/or suspensions have ended, you can apply to reinstate your licence at any driver licensing agent. You'll be issued with an alcohol interlock licence, which means you'll only be entitled to drive vehicles fitted with an approved alcohol interlock device.

See *Getting your licence issued* for more information about applying for an alcohol interlock licence.

You'll need to follow step 3 before you can start to drive again.

## Step 3: install an alcohol interlock

An alcohol interlock is a breath testing device that's wired into a vehicle's starting system. Before the vehicle can start, the driver must blow into the device. If any alcohol is detected on your breath, the vehicle won't start.

There are 2 approved providers of alcohol interlocks who have

installers all over New Zealand. These are:

### Draeger New Zealand Ltd

Go to [www.draeger.com/interlockNZ](http://www.draeger.com/interlockNZ) to find an installer near you, then contact the installer directly to find out more about leasing and installing an alcohol interlock device.

### Smart Start NZ

Call Smart Start NZ on 0800 002 182 for more information about leasing and installing an alcohol interlock device. You can also go to [www.smartstartinterlocks.co.nz](http://www.smartstartinterlocks.co.nz) to see where your closest Smart Start installer is.

You can also go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-installer](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-installer) to find an installer near you.

You'll need to pay an installation fee and a monthly lease fee to the installer. These fees may vary. The approved provider/installer can tell you what the fees will be.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency may grant you subsidy assistance for some alcohol interlock costs if your financial circumstances qualify you for a subsidy. See *Alcohol interlock subsidy* for more information.

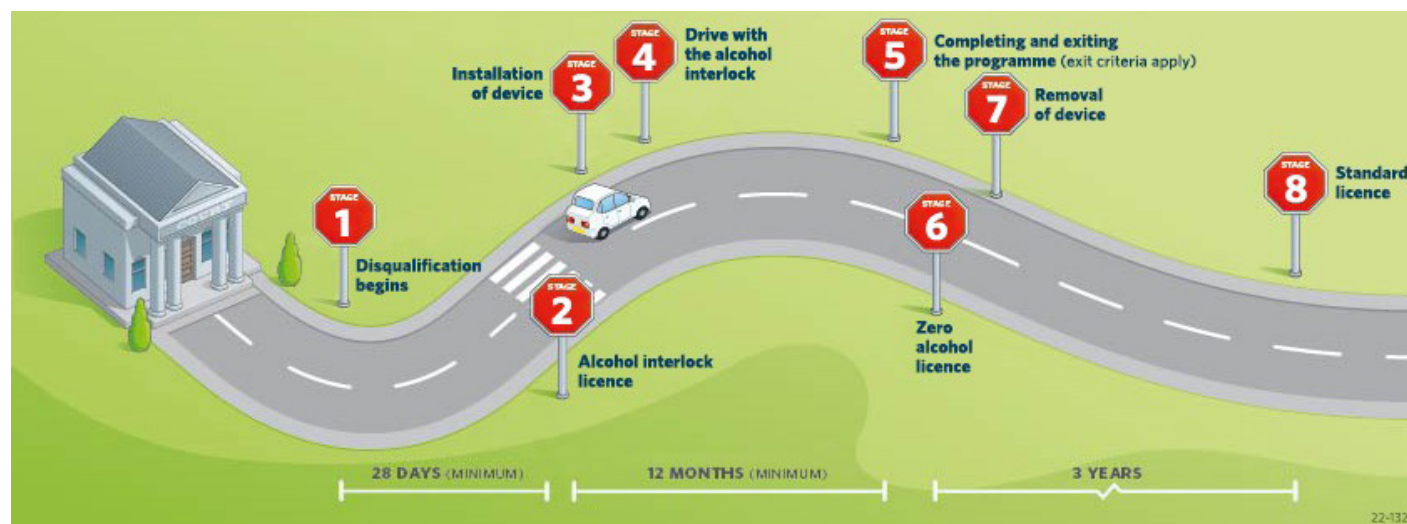
## Step 4: drive with the alcohol interlock

You must breathe into the alcohol interlock before starting the vehicle. The alcohol interlock analyses the breath sample and if alcohol is detected the vehicle won't start.

You also need to provide a breath sample at random times while the vehicle is in use (this is called a rolling retest).

Make sure you take every test the device requires, including re-tests. If you don't take a test it can affect your assessment when you apply for approval to exit this stage of the programme.

Data relating to the vehicle use, alcohol readings and violations are recorded by the device. Each month the vehicle must be taken to the installer for servicing and to have the data downloaded. If the



vehicle isn't taken to the installer for a scheduled service and data download, then the interlock device will prevent the vehicle from starting until the installer services the alcohol interlock.

Make sure you're familiar with how your alcohol interlock works. You can download a user manual from your provider's website.

#### Draeger New Zealand Ltd

<https://www.draeger.com/Library/Content/DSP-ITL-607-Rev2-User-Guide-NZ.pdf>

#### Smart Start NZ

[https://smartstartinterlocks.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SSI\\_Manual\\_V2.pdf](https://smartstartinterlocks.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/SSI_Manual_V2.pdf)

### When to apply to exit the programme

Before you can exit this stage you must have held the alcohol interlock licence **for at least 12 months**.

While you have the alcohol interlock licence you must:

- have driven a vehicle (so we can assess whether you're eligible to leave the alcohol interlock stage), and
- have **only** driven vehicles with approved alcohol interlock devices installed, and
- meet one of the following criteria:

Option 1	Option 2
You haven't committed any violations in the 6-month period before your request to exit the alcohol interlock programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You haven't committed any violations in the 3-month period before your request to exit the alcohol interlock programme AND</li><li>▪ You've successfully completed a drug and alcohol assessment* at a Ministry of Health-approved assessment centre.</li></ul> <p>Go to <a href="http://www.nzta.govt.nz/moh-assessment-centres">www.nzta.govt.nz/moh-assessment-centres</a> to find a centre.</p> <p><i>*This may include things like counselling, blood tests and a medical assessment. Check with your assessment centre to make sure you've completed the whole assessment.</i></p>

If your alcohol interlock sentence replaces a previous indefinite disqualification that hadn't been ended, then you must meet option 2 above.

#### WHAT IS A VIOLATION?

Breaching any of the alcohol interlock licence conditions defined in the Land Transport (Alcohol Interlock) Regulations 2012 is a violation.

This means if you do any of the following during the period being assessed (ie 3 months or 6 months) we won't give you approval to exit the alcohol interlock stage.

- Tamper with the alcohol interlock device.
- Fail a breath test administered by the device because of your breath alcohol level.
- Fail to do 2 or more rolling retests.
- Start or attempt to start the vehicle without an initial breath test (ie by pushing or hot wiring the vehicle).
- Fail to present the vehicle for 2 or more scheduled inspections/services.

### Step 5: approval to exit the alcohol interlock licence stage of the programme

When you're ready to exit the alcohol interlock stage of the programme, and you've met the criteria above, you need to get your AID provider to download a reading for you.

Immediately after this download, go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-exit](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-exit) to apply to exit the programme.

You can supply additional evidence with your application if you wish.

Once we've granted you approval to exit the programme, you can move to step 6.

### Step 6: getting a zero alcohol licence

After you get approval to exit the programme, you can apply to get a zero alcohol licence. See *Getting your licence issued*.

You're still subject to the conditions of your alcohol interlock licence (ie you can only drive vehicles fitted with an alcohol interlock device) until you've got your zero alcohol licence.

### Step 7: removal of the alcohol interlock from your vehicle

Take your zero alcohol licence to the approved provider/installer. Your zero alcohol licence lets the installer know that you're approved to exit the alcohol interlock stage of the programme. The installer will then remove the alcohol interlock from your vehicle.

After the alcohol interlock has been removed from your vehicle, you'll still be subject to a zero alcohol limit for the 3 years that you hold your zero alcohol licence. This means that if you have even one drink and then drive, you can be charged with drink driving and disqualified.

### Step 8: getting a standard licence

You'll need to hold your zero alcohol licence for three years, and then it will expire. You can then apply to reinstate your licence at any driver licensing agent and be issued with a standard licence. See *Getting your licence issued* for more information.

### Getting your licence issued

You can apply for the issue of an alcohol interlock or zero alcohol licence or to reinstate your driver licence at any driver licensing agent. Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/agent](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/agent) to find an agent in your area.

You'll need to:

- submit a completed *Application for alcohol interlock or zero alcohol licence* form (DL8) - go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL8](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL8) to download the form
- provide evidence of your identity - this can be:
  - » your New Zealand photo driver licence (which must be current or expired up to 2 years) or
  - » your current New Zealand passport, or
  - » 2 other forms of acceptable evidence of identity (see *Identification for driver licensing* (Factsheet 20) for more information and a full list of acceptable ID)
- prove your eyesight meets the required standard
- have your image and signature captured
- pay the relevant application fee OR take evidence that you're eligible for an alcohol interlock subsidy (see *Alcohol interlock subsidy*). The application fees are:
  - » \$31.30 for an alcohol interlock licence, or
  - » \$37.30 for a zero alcohol licence, or
  - » \$48.00 for a licence reinstatement.

If you were disqualified for more than 12 months, you'll also need to pass the appropriate tests to regain the driver licence classes you held previously.

If you had a car licence (class 1) or motorcycle licence (class 6), you'll have to pass the appropriate theory and practical test. If you had both a car and a motorcycle licence, and you want both again, you'll have to pass theory and practical tests for each of them.

If you had a heavy vehicle licence (classes 2-5), you only sit a theory and a practical test for the highest class. For example, if you had a class 5 licence you won't have to sit the tests for classes 1-4, just the theory and practical tests for class 5. You can choose to complete an approved course instead of passing a practical test.

You'll need to pay a one-off test fee for each test you need to sit. There are no fees to change or cancel your test.

Test type	One-off test fee
Theory test	\$45.70
Restricted practical test	\$86.60
Full practical test	\$59.90

If you've passed a theory test but still have to sit a practical test, you'll be given a licence with a supervisor condition. The supervisor condition will remain until you've passed your practical test.

## Alcohol interlock subsidy

You may be eligible for subsidy assistance if:

- your alcohol interlock sentence was issued from 1 July 2018 onwards, AND
- you meet the financial eligibility criteria.

To prove you meet the eligibility criteria you can:

- provide a signed and witnessed *Statutory declaration in respect of application for alcohol interlock subsidy* form (DL27) when you make your application for an alcohol interlock licence, or
- if you choose, show your Community Services Card to the agent when you make your application.

Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL27](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL27) to download the form.

If you're granted subsidy assistance, you won't have to pay for:

- the alcohol interlock licence
- installation of the alcohol interlock device in your vehicle
- part of the monthly servicing fees (\$50 subsidised a month) for up to 15 services
- the zero alcohol licence issued after you've exited the alcohol interlock programme
- removal of the alcohol interlock device from your vehicle.

The subsidy will only last for 15 months from when you get your alcohol interlock licence. If you haven't been given approval to exit the programme and had the device removed from your vehicle within 15 months of getting your alcohol interlock licence, you won't be eligible for any further subsidised fees.

If you miss more than one monthly service in a row, your subsidy may stop. Contact your provider straight away if you think you might not be able to get to your monthly service.

## Eligibility criteria

You're eligible for a subsidy if you are:

- entitled to receive sole parent support, a supported living payment, a community wage, an emergency benefit, veteran's pension, youth payment or young parent payment, or
- entitled to receive weekly income compensation under the Veteran's Support Act 2014, or
- your family or superannuation income is within these limits:

If your household is:	then your yearly income (before tax) can be up to:
Single - living with others	\$33,181
Single - living alone	\$35,213
Married, civil union or de facto couple - no children	\$52,656
NZ superannuation single - living with others	\$35,283
NZ superannuation single - living alone	\$37,531
NZ superannuation married, civil union or de facto couple - no children	\$56,327
Family of 2	\$64,316
Family of 3	\$79,167
Family of 4	\$91,332
Family of 5	\$103,281
Family of 6	\$116,434
For families of more than 6, the limit goes up another \$11,802 for each extra person.	

This is the same as the eligibility criteria for a Community Services Card. If you have any questions about Community Services Card eligibility, please call the Ministry of Social Development on 0800 999 999.

## Commonly asked questions

### Can I supply my own alcohol interlock?

No. If you're subject to the conditions of an alcohol interlock licence, then you must use an approved device, provided and fitted by an approved installer.

### If I have an AID fitted, can someone else drive my vehicle?

Yes. Another licensed driver can drive your vehicle but they must comply with all of the alcohol interlock requirements, eg they must complete a breath check to start the vehicle. Their results and any violations will be recorded in your assessment data, and may affect your ability to exit the alcohol interlock programme.

### Can I apply for a different type of licence when I have an alcohol interlock licence?

You can apply to renew, replace or reinstate your alcohol interlock licence. However, you're not entitled to a limited licence, or to get any new classes or endorsements.

### Can I get a subsidy if my circumstances change?

If your circumstances change partway through your sentence and you meet the financial eligibility criteria, you may be eligible to have the rest of your alcohol interlock costs subsidised. Go to [www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-subsidy](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-subsidy) for more information.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking [www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)



[www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)



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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

### Can I use the alcohol interlock device as a breath test?

No. If you're blowing into the device you should have the intention to drive. All data will be recorded and included in your assessment when you apply to exit the alcohol interlock programme.

### Can a substance other than alcohol make me fail a test?

Yes, some substances like sanitiser, mouthwash or food could cause you to fail a test. You should always take any re-tests that your device requires. Check your device's manual to find out what to do when this happens (follow the links on page 2 of this factsheet).

### What should I do when my vehicle is serviced?

If your mechanic needs to start your vehicle when it's being serviced or repaired, they'll need to blow into the device to get it started. We recommend you get something in writing from the garage to confirm it was being serviced at the time.

## Overview of the alcohol interlock programme

