

Information Pack: South Australian Alcohol Interlock Scheme

MR 258
01/06

This Information Pack is designed to provide detailed information on the South Australian Alcohol Interlock Scheme to potential participants.

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A Breath Alcohol Interlock is an easy-to-use device that requires drivers to pass a breath alcohol test before they can start their vehicle, or continue to operate the vehicle.

The Alcohol Interlock Scheme

The Alcohol Interlock Scheme is a legislated Scheme that allows drivers disqualified for a relevant drink driving offence to apply to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (Registrar) for an "Alcohol Interlock" licence at any time after the half way point of their disqualification.

This information pack has been prepared for potential Scheme participants, who have been convicted of a relevant drink driving offence and disqualified from holding

or obtaining a driver's licence for six months or more.

An Alcohol Interlock is a small breath-testing device, about the size of an electric shaver, which can be fitted to your vehicle. It measures your breath alcohol level when you blow into it, allowing you to drive legally, but preventing you from driving after drinking.

The Alcohol Interlock Scheme gives you the mobility and the opportunity to maintain employment,

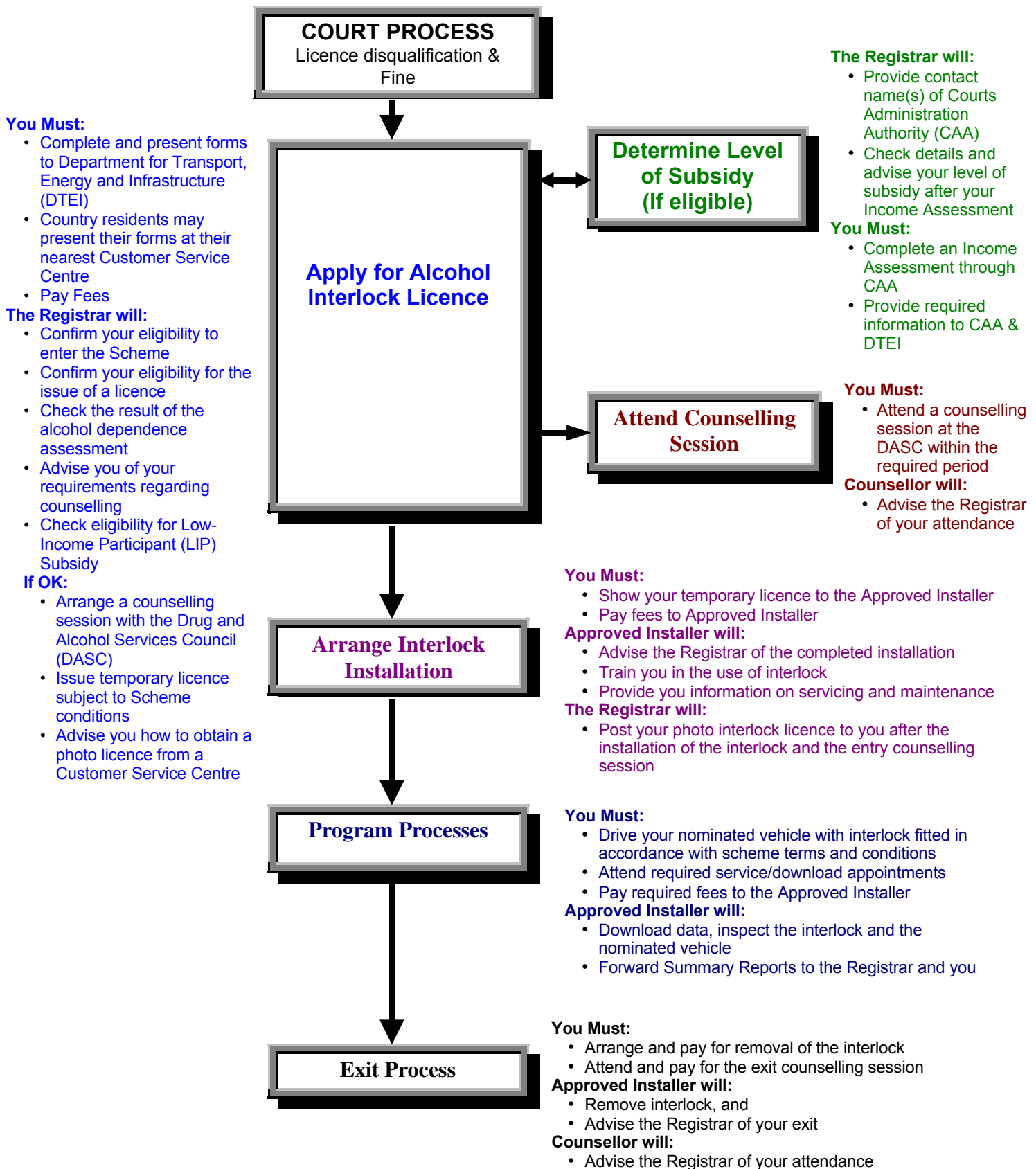
while at the same time providing the public with the assurance that you will only be able to drive whilst no alcohol is present in the blood, thus improving road safety.

South Australia is the first state in Australia to establish an Alcohol Interlock Scheme for persons convicted of drink driving. Examples of successful interlock schemes can be found in United States, Canada, and Sweden.

Key Factors

- The Alcohol Interlock Scheme is available to drivers who have been convicted and suspended under the *Road Traffic Act 1961* for a relevant drink driving offence;
- The Registrar is responsible for the administration of the Alcohol Interlock Scheme.
- Services for the Alcohol Interlock Scheme will be available throughout South Australia;
- Participation in the Scheme is voluntary, and drivers will bear all costs in relation to installing, monthly rental, servicing and removal of the Alcohol Interlock and counselling sessions;
- A person convicted, on or after 16th July 2001, of a relevant drink driving offence and disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for 6 months or more, may apply to the Registrar for an Alcohol Interlock Licence at any time after the half-way point in the period of that disqualification.





How do you use an Alcohol Interlock Device?



Before starting your vehicle you must blow for a few seconds into the interlock device. The device will then measure your breath alcohol level.

If your breath alcohol level is below the pre-set limit, you will be able to start the vehicle as usual. If your breath alcohol exceeds the pre-set limit, you will not be able to start the vehicle for anywhere between 5-30 minutes.

If you stop the vehicle for more than three minutes, you will need to carry out another successful breath test before re-starting. If you stall the vehicle it is not necessary to carry out another breath test.

In addition, the interlock may require you to undertake a re-test as you drive along. This means you have to blow into the interlock device again. So that you can stop the vehicle to take the breath test, you will be allowed three

minutes to do this. If you are still below the pre-set limit, you can continue driving. If you don't present a sample, or you fail a re-test, an alarm of horn and lights will start until the vehicle is turned off, or you undertake a successful re-test.

Who is eligible for the Scheme?

"Participation in the Alcohol Interlock Scheme is voluntary and drivers will bear all costs in relation to installing, monthly rental, servicing and removal of the Alcohol Interlock Device and counselling sessions"

A person convicted on or after 16 July 2001, of a relevant drink driving offence and disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for 6 months or more, will be eligible to apply to participate in the Alcohol Interlock Scheme at any time after the half-way point of that disqualification period.

A person is **not eligible** for the Alcohol Interlock Scheme if:

- They do not meet the requirements of the **Motor Vehicles Act 1959** for the issue of a licence;
- The person only holds a

bike class licence

- The offence was committed while the person held a learner's permit only;
- A disqualification (other than the disqualification arising from the relevant drink driving offence) has been imposed and is in force at the date of the person's application for the Alcohol Interlock Scheme;
- A disqualification (other than the disqualification arising from the relevant drink driving offence) has been imposed and is to commence at a later date;

- They have been assessed by DASC as being dependent on alcohol and/or drugs;
- There is a medical reason why a licence should not be issued;
- There is any other reason why a licence should not be issued, for example, the Courts Administration Authority has imposed a Cessation of Business order or Fines Enforcement order for the non-payment of an outstanding fine.

Participating period of the Scheme

The length of time a participant's licence is subjected to the conditions of the Alcohol Interlock Scheme is twice the number of days left in the period of disqualification for the

relevant drink driving offence prior to the issuing of the Interlock licence.

For example, if a person is disqualified for 12 months and chooses to enter the

Scheme after serving 6 months of the disqualification period, the licence issued will be subject to the Alcohol Interlock Scheme conditions for 12 months.



Alcohol & Drug Assessment Clinic

A person, who has been convicted of two or more drink driving offences within a three-year period, is required to undertake an Alcohol and Drug Assessment. The assessment must be conducted before the person is eligible to apply for a licence.

The Alcohol and Drug

Assessment consists of an interview and medical assessment conducted by the Driver Assessment Clinic at the Drug and Alcohol Services Council (DASC). If the person is assessed by the Driver Assessment Clinic as being dependent on alcohol and/or drugs, then the person cannot be issued with a licence.

If you think that you may be required to undertake an Alcohol and Drug Assessment, it is recommended that you contact the department on (08) 8374 5137 to arrange an assessment **at least 3 months prior** to applying to participate in the Alcohol Scheme.



Mandatory Counselling

One of the conditions of the Alcohol Interlock Scheme is that a participant must attend a minimum of two counselling sessions with the DASC at entry and exit from the scheme. The sessions each cost \$55, to be paid for by the participant.

The intention of the

mandatory counselling sessions are to assist the participant in correcting their drinking and driving behaviour.

The entry counselling session can be arranged by the Registrar to take place within 2 weeks before and 4 weeks after the installation

of the interlock.

Failure to attend the mandatory counselling session will result in a breach of the conditions of the Alcohol Interlock Scheme and may result in the Registrar cancelling your interlock licence.

Nominated Vehicle(s)

You must advise the Registrar of Motor Vehicles which vehicle(s) that you will be driving during the period that you have an **Alcohol Interlock Licence**. This vehicle, known as your **"Nominated Vehicle"**, **must have an Alcohol Interlock Device installed**. The vehicle must be registered before applying for the alcohol interlock scheme, be registered in SA, and in your name. This is the **only vehicle** that you are permitted to drive under the conditions of your **Alcohol Interlock Licence**.

Other drivers may drive your nominated vehicle. However, they must comply with the scheme conditions. For example, they must undertake breath samples when requested by the Alcohol Interlock Device.

You may have more than one nominated vehicle, for example, a "company" and a "private" vehicle. An Alcohol Interlock Device must be installed in each vehicle and the details of each vehicle must be provided to the Registrar.

You will also be required to pay all costs for installation, monthly rental, servicing and removal of each installed Alcohol Interlock Device.

Approved Installers are to visually inspect the nominated vehicle(s) to ensure that the electrical system is capable of supporting the interlock before beginning the installation of the interlock.





SA Alcohol Interlock Scheme Approved Installers:

- **Dräger Australia Pty Limited**
 - **Guardian Interlock Systems Australasia Pty Limited**
-

Who runs the Scheme?

The Alcohol Interlock Scheme is administrated by the Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI).

The following companies have been approved for the purpose of installing and servicing Alcohol Interlock Devices in South Australia. These companies are:

- **Draeger Safety Pacific Pty Ltd**
Unit 3, 2 Arwon Court, Lonsdale SA 5160
Telephone: 1800 67 77 87 Fax: 1800 64 74 84
- **Guardian Interlock Systems Australasia Pty Limited**
92 Daws Road, Edwardstown SA 5039
Telephone: 08 8177 0055 Fax: 08 8177 0155

You are advised to contact the Approved Installers to find out details of their services and charges as their methods of provision of services and prices vary.

You need to make an appointment with an Approved Installer to arrange installation of the interlock in your nominated vehicle(s).

Training

Approved Installers will provide personal, comprehensive training to all participants in using the interlock, as well as advising about its capabilities and how it interacts with the Scheme. Training includes demonstration and actual use of the device to be fitted in the participant's vehicle. Training of the participant's partner, spouse or other support is to be provided at installation if required.

Participants are to be advised by the Approved Installer on how to deal with difficulties in use such as breakdowns and lockouts.

Services

The Approved Installer will monitor all interlock devices at regular monthly or two -monthly intervals.

Each time the interlock is serviced, the interlock device will be checked to ensure its proper operation, and the information recorded in the interlock concerning the previous monthly usage will be downloaded. The recorded information includes the date and time of all attempts to start the vehicle, breath test results and lockouts. This information will be forwarded to the Registrar for evaluation.

In addition, the Approved Installer will perform a visual inspection of the device, the vehicle, and the device's wiring to ensure that no tampering or circumvention has occurred during the monitoring period.

If the device is not serviced within the maximum allowed period of time (normally within 7 days after the due service date), it will result in the device entering a lockout condition that can only be reset by an approved service provider. The Approved Installer will also notify the Registrar about your failure to attend service on time.

The DASC will provide a counselling service to participants in the scheme.

The Registrar will ensure all information remains confidential.



Settings

The following tables describe the main settings that will be programmed into the interlock and the consequences of various events.

Description	Settings
Fail Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) Level	Vehicle will not start at or above this BAC setting
High BAC Level	Vehicle will not start at or above this BAC setting and the interlock will record it as a High BAC failure
Service required (warning days)	7 days before Service Date, the interlock will indicate and countdown on the display to when the next service is required
Service past required date (warning days)	For 7 days after the due Service Date, the interlock will indicate and countdown on the display, and then will enter a permanent lockout state.
Stall Protect (minutes)	2 minutes after the engine has been shut off or stalled when the engine may be restarted without a breath test.
Lockout Recall (maximum occurrences)	10 occasions. If the interlock enters lockout status on 10 occasions in any service period, the vehicle will require an early service within 7 days, after which it will enter a permanent lockout state.
First running retest (minutes)	5-15 minutes. The random time interval after first starting the engine within which a retest will be required.
Second & subsequent running retest (minutes)	15-60 minutes. The random time period within which subsequent breath samples will be required.
Running retest required grace period (minutes)	3 minutes. If the BAC limit is exceeded or a test is not presented within 3 minutes, an alarm of horn and lights will start, and one violation will be recorded. The driver must turn off the engine to stop the alarm.

Events	Results
Initial test failed e.g. low volume, blow too hard or too soft	Require test again
Initial test failed – Low BAC	5 minutes lockout
Initial test failed – High BAC	30 minutes lockout
Subsequent initial test failed – Low or High BAC	30 minutes lockout
Retest failed –	Hazard lights to flash and horn to sound until engine is turned off & 30 minutes lockout from engine turn off
Retest not presented	Hazard lights to flash and horn to sound until engine is turned off
Power on/off or battery disconnected	Power on/off will be recorded & violation may be recorded
Flat car battery	Violation may be recorded unless a receipt or evidence presented
Attempt to circumvent/tamper with electronics, at Start up	Activate a breath test & violation will be recorded
5 occasions of high BAC failed (maximum)	If the driver blows on 5 occasions at and above the high BAC level within a service period, the vehicle will require an early service within 7 days, otherwise it will enter a permanent lockout state.
5 violations (maximum), such as, start circumvention, Retest failed or not presented.	If the interlock records violation on 5 occasions in any service period, the vehicle will require an early service within 7 days, otherwise it will enter a permanent lockout state.

Early Service Recall

- *If the driver blows maximum 5 occasions at and above the high BAC level; 5 violations; or 10 lockouts within a service period, the vehicle will require an early service within 7 days, otherwise it will enter a permanent lockout state.*
- *The driver will have to pay for the full fees of an early recall service-no subsidy will be given by the Registrar.*



How does a person apply to enter the Alcohol Interlock Scheme?

All applications for entry into the Alcohol Interlock Scheme will be assessed by the Alcohol Interlock Scheme officer.

• Metropolitan applicants

You must phone the Alcohol Interlock Scheme officer on (08) 8374 5137 to arrange an appointment, or for further information and initial assessment of eligibility prior to attending. The Alcohol Interlock Scheme officer will assess your eligibility to enter the scheme. If your application is approved, an appointment will be arranged for the first mandatory counselling session. The fee for the initial mandatory counselling session and the issue of the driver's licence will be payable on approval of your application. You will then need to attend your nearest Customer Service Centre to have your photograph taken for your driver's licence.

• Country applicants

You may fax or post your application to the Alcohol Interlock Scheme officer, or lodge your application form via your nearest Customer Service Centre. However, you may phone the Alcohol Interlock Scheme officer on 1300 550 387, for further information and initial assessment of eligibility prior to this. The Alcohol Interlock Scheme officer will assess your eligibility to enter the scheme. If your application is approved, an appointment will be arranged for the first mandatory counselling session. The fee for the initial mandatory counselling session and the issue of the driver's licence may be paid at a Customer Service Centre or by credit card over the phone to The Alcohol Interlock Officer. If you choose to pay by credit card over the phone your temporary licence and receipt for counselling will be forwarded to you by post.

The following application forms will need to be completed when applying to enter the Scheme.

- MR206 Driver's Licence/Learner's Permit Renewal, Replacement and Issue Application
- MR255 Application to Enter Alcohol Interlock Scheme
- MR254 Alcohol Interlock Scheme Mandatory Counselling Form.

Low Income Participant (LIP) Subsidy Scheme

A Low-Income Participant Subsidy Scheme has been established for low-income participants in the Alcohol Interlock Scheme.

A subsidy can only be provided where:

- The gross weekly (i.e. pre tax) income of the participant or their family unit (i.e. the gross income of the participant and his/her spouse/partner) is less than 50% of the "full time adult employee average weekly ordinary time earnings" (South Australia) as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics; or
- The participant is in receipt of a Centrelink pension.

Under the subsidy scheme, low-income participants may be eligible for a reduced fee on the monthly rental and servicing of the interlock devices. There is also a reduced monthly administration fee. Participants who are not entitled to a subsidy, will pay a \$30 per month Administration fee, however, subsidised participants will only pay a \$22 per month Administration fee.

When assessing a participant's eligibility to enter the subsidy scheme, the participant will be required to demonstrate their inability to pay the full amount for the Alcohol Interlock Scheme as well as their ability to pay a subsidised amount.

A maximum subsidy of 25% will be available for participants with no dependants. A minimum subsidy of 25% and a maximum of 50% will be available to participants with one or more dependants.

A participant can seek a review of their level of subsidy every three months.

Eligibility for subsidy scheme

- *Less than 50% of "full time adult employee average weekly ordinary time earnings" or*
- *The participant is in receipt of a Centrelink pension.*



The Costs of Entering the Alcohol Interlock Scheme

The fees payable when entering the Alcohol Interlock Scheme will include:

Initial Fees

- ◆ Fee for issue of driver's licence
- ◆ Administration fee for issue of driver's licence
- ◆ **Monthly administration fee (participants eligible for the Low Income Subsidy– refer to separate topic for more information on the subsidy) - this fee is collected by installers on behalf of Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure**
- ◆ Fee for mandatory counselling session
- ◆ Fee for installation of interlock device
- ◆ Fee for the first month's rental and service

Ongoing Fees

- ◆ Fee for monthly rental and service
- ◆ **Monthly administration fee (participants eligible for the Low Income Subsidy) - this fee is collected by installers on behalf of Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure & is payable per month or part thereof.**

Other Fees

- ◆ Fee for mandatory counselling session on exiting the scheme
- ◆ Fee for removal of interlock device
- ◆ Additional fees charged by the Approved Installer due to events such as misuse of the equipment, failure to attend services or lockouts.



The fees for each applicant will vary depending on the following:

- ◆ the period for which the driver's licence is issued
- ◆ The company chosen by the applicant for the installation and management of the interlock device (although the costs will be similar, they won't be identical)
- ◆ The type of car that is having the interlock device fitted.

It is expected that the initial cost for entrance into the scheme will come to a total of approximately \$400 and the monthly rental, service and administration fee will come to a total of approximately \$160.

As each approved installer has its own pricing system, it will be necessary to contact each Approved Installer to get an accurate cost for installation and ongoing maintenance.

Where a fee has been shown in brackets above, this is the set fee. All fees are GST inclusive where GST applied.

Note: There is no subsidy for installation and removal of the interlock, and early recall service due to Participant mis-use or interference with the interlock.

"Participants will pay all costs which will include:

Entry Costs –
approximately \$400 covering the conditional special licence, installation, monthly rental and service, counselling and the scheme administration fee.

Monthly Costs –
approximately \$160 covering rental, service and Scheme Administration fee.

Exit Costs – approx \$150
covering removal and counselling."



BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration) is expressed in grams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood (%BAC).

Temporary Lockout is a temporary condition in which the interlock device will not permit a breath test to be conducted and thereby prevents the participant from starting the motor vehicle. This condition will occur when a BAC Fail or Running Retest Fail result is obtained. The initial lock out period is 5 minutes with subsequent lock out periods of 30 minutes duration.

Permanent Lockout. If the participant does not present the vehicle for a requested service within 7 days after the Service Date, the vehicle will enter a permanent lockout state. You will not be able to start the vehicle until an Approved Installer resets the interlock.

Event Log. The event log records the date, time and day of the following:

- Initial Tests Passed
- Initial Tests Failed – Low/High BAC
- Initial Tests Not Presented
- Retests Not Presented
- Incorrect Sample Presentations
- Engine Starts and Stops
- Bypass Detection
- Power Connects and Disconnects
- Handset Disconnects
- Lockouts
- Hardware Errors
- Start Violations (any attempt to disable or fraudulently start the vehicle, etc).

The Approved Installer will report a summary of data from the event log to the Registrar after the download of the interlock data. A copy of this report will be also provided to the Participant.

Preset Stall Time. The alcohol interlock will allow the vehicle to be restarted within 2 minutes once the engine has been turned off or stopped, without needing to undertake a retest. This allows a restart after the vehicle has stalled to prevent or minimise a safety hazard in traffic.

Random Running Retest is a subsequent breath test that must be conducted according to the preset conditions of the interlock device, on the basis of a random time duration from the previous test and should be carried out while the motor vehicle is parked at a safe location. The first period is to be set for 5-15 minutes at random. The second and subsequent retests are set for 15-60 minutes at random. Note that special regulations have been created allowing participants the use of Loading Zone and Emergency Lanes for this purpose under specified conditions.

For road safety reasons, the time limit for the completion of a rolling retest has been set to 3 minutes.

Service Period. The Alcohol Interlock device is programmed to require the user to return the vehicle for inspections monthly. A service reminder will begin to flash 7 days before the scheduled appointment. If the participant does not report for their appointment within 7 days after it is scheduled, the device will enter a lockout status. This will make the vehicle unable to be restarted and require a service visit by the service provider at the vehicle owner's expense.

It is proposed that a 2-monthly service interval will be made available if no violations are recorded for two successive months. However, the users will have to return to monthly service if their records show they have any violations during the extended service interval.

Violations. An Alcohol Interlock device is capable of flagging certain events as violations. It is programmed that after reaching pre set numbers, an early service will be requested. This requires the user to report for monitoring, at which time the events log is downloaded and analysed. The user will pay the full cost for such a service and all other services.

Early Recall Service. Once the interlock records 5 violations, 5 high BAC fails, or 10 lockouts the participant is requested to return the vehicle to the Approved Installer for a program monitoring check. If the participant does not return within this time period, the unit will enter into the 7 day overdue period after which the vehicle will enter a Permanent Lockout condition. The lockout condition can only be reset by an Approved Installer at the vehicle owner's expense.

Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, is the administrative body for the SA Alcohol Interlock Scheme.



What if I am unable to attend a service appointment?

If you do not attend a required service appointment within the specified time (normally 7 days after the due date), the interlock device may lock the ignition, so that the vehicle cannot be started.

If you are unable to attend the appointment for any reason (eg illness, injury or long distance travel), it is important that you notify Approved Installer staff well in advance so that you may make another arrangement.

Can anyone else drive the nominated vehicle?

Disposable mouthpieces are available so that other people can drive the vehicle and use the interlock device, provided their breath alcohol level is below the pre-set limit.

It is advisable for others using the device to attend the training during installation.

What if I sell the nominated vehicle?

If the vehicle is sold or wrecked, you should contact the Approved Installer to arrange for removal of the interlock device. The Approved Installer can also re-install the device if you buy another vehicle. However, you will need to advise the Registrar of any change to your nominated vehicle(s).

Can I drive a vehicle without an interlock?

No. After you have been approved to have an interlock licence, you must comply with all Scheme conditions. If you drive a vehicle not fitted with an interlock device, it will be an offence and if detected you will be prosecuted by the Police.

What if I need to quit the Scheme?

You will have to contact the Registrar about your exit, and make arrangements with the Approved Installer to remove the device from your vehicle. However, your licence is still subjected to the scheme conditions until completing the Scheme period.

Can I keep the alcohol interlock after the Scheme?

You may make arrangements with an Approved Installer to lease a device (at your cost) after exiting the scheme.

What happens if a participant breaches the Alcohol Interlock Scheme conditions?

If a participant breaches a condition of the Alcohol Interlock Scheme, a penalty up to \$1,250 and a further licence disqualification can apply. The period of licence disqualification will be six months or the number of days remaining in the period of the person's disqualification for the relevant drink driving offence immediately before the licence was issued, whichever is the longer period. (Refer to Terms and Conditions of the SA Alcohol Interlock Scheme)

If a participant breaches any of the provisional or probationary conditions, the same penalties that currently apply will be enforced.

Can the interlock be fitted in any vehicle?

The interlock can be fitted in most vehicles. The Approved Installer will inspect your nominated vehicle to ensure that the electrical system is capable of supporting the interlock before beginning the installation of the interlock.

How should I prepare for a Running Retest when I am driving?

Once the interlock requests a running retest sample, you will have up to 3 minutes to park your vehicle at a safe location, eg car park, Loading Zone, Emergency Lane with the engine running and present a breath sample. If you are unable to present your breath sample within a required period, an alarm of horn and lights will start, and one violation will be recorded. The driver must turn off the engine to stop the alarm.





**Government
of South Australia**

Phone:
Metro (08) 8374 5137
Regional 1300 550 387

Fax:
(08) 8374 5140

We're on the Web!

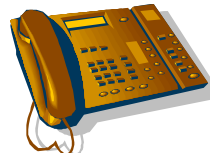
See us at:

www.dtei.sa.gov.au

You will find more information about the Scheme and may download copy of Application Forms of the Interlock Licence from our web-site!

Alcohol Interlock Scheme Contacts

For information about the Alcohol Interlock Scheme, call **1300 550 387** between 9:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday (for the cost of a local call anywhere in South Australia).



Office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm, except public holidays.

Adelaide Metropolitan

Adelaide Interlock Scheme Officer

Telephone: 08 8374 5137
Facsimile: 08 8374 5140
Email:
licence.services@saugov.sa.gov.au

Regional

Telephone: 1300 550 387

Approved Installers Contact Details

Guardian Interlock Systems Australasia Pty Limited

92 Daws Rd, Edwardstown SA 5039

Telephone: 08 8177 0055

Fax: 08 8177 0155

Draeger Safety Pacific Pty Ltd

Unit 3, 2 Arwon Court, Lonsdale SA 5160

Telephone: 1800 67 77 87

Fax: 1800 64 74 84



About Your Application...

If you are considering applying for an Alcohol Interlock Licence, please make sure you have read and understood all the information contained in this Information Pack. Application forms are available at all Customer Service Centres.

If you have any questions regarding your application or the Scheme, please do not hesitate to contact the Alcohol Interlock Scheme on 1300 550 387.

Once you have completed your application forms, please make an appointment to present your application to the Alcohol Interlock Scheme Officer, or post to the following address:

**SA ALCOHOL INTERLOCK SCHEME OFFICER
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
(OAKLANDS PARK)
PO BOX 1
WALKERVILLE SA 5081**

