

Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program

USER'S HANDBOOK

Ignition Interlock is a proven technology that is helping to reduce drinking and driving in other parts of Canada and around the world. We are confident that the program will help keep Nova Scotia's roads safer.

A **Road Safety** Initiative



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Introduction

The Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program has been put in place to keep our roads safer by reducing the number of people who drink and drive.

The program is for people who have lost their driver's licence because they have been convicted of an alcohol-related offence. It may also apply to those who have had alcohol-related incident(s) on their driving record.

For many in this category, entering this program will be the only way to regain their full driver's licence.

You may choose to participate in this program if this is your first conviction, depending on your assessment from Addiction Services. However, you must participate if this is your second or subsequent conviction or if this is your first conviction and your Addiction Services counselor has rated you a high risk to re-offend.

In the case of those with non-criminal alcohol-related incident(s) on their driving record, the Office of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles can require them to enter this program.

Program start date: September 30, 2008

How the Program Works

The program involves:

- **installing an ignition interlock device in your vehicle**
- **participating with Addiction Services**

THE INTERLOCK DEVICE

This is a small, hand-held, breath-testing device fitted to a vehicle's ignition. You must blow into the device and if alcohol is detected and is higher than a pre-set limit,* the vehicle will not start.

Once you start the vehicle, the interlock device requires you to provide breath samples at random times while the engine is running.

If the sample is not provided or the blood alcohol content is over the limit, the device will log the event, warn you, and trigger an alarm that will sound until the ignition is turned off.

All the activity on the interlock device is recorded and stored in the device's handset. The handset plugs into your car and is used to track your progress in the program. A staff member at a service centre will remove the device from your car every 60 days and arrange for the information to be downloaded.

* *The blood alcohol content limit for people in the Interlock Program in Nova Scotia is 0.02 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood. This number represents the average amount of alcohol that is naturally produced in the human body and from commercial products such as mouth wash.*

Ignition Interlock and You

PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM

If you have been convicted of an impaired driving offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, you may apply to be in the program.

Prior to the introduction of the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program, Nova Scotia's law required anyone convicted of an impaired driving offence to undergo an assessment with Addiction Services staff to evaluate the extent of their alcohol or drug use and complete the Driving While Impaired Education Program.

Under the new Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program, this will continue to be the case.

You will still be required by law to complete a mandatory education and alcohol assessment program through Addiction Services. However, at the end of this period, your counselor will assess your risk of having ongoing problems with alcohol as **low, medium, or high**.

Based on this assessment, your counselor will make a recommendation as to whether you should be accepted into the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Program.

Depending on your situation, the program may be voluntary or mandatory.

Voluntary - if it is your first offence and you are considered "low or medium risk" by your Addiction Services counselor.

Mandatory - if you are a repeat offender, are considered to be a "high risk" first-offender and/or have been convicted of impaired driving causing bodily harm or death.

Please see **Appendix A** for more detailed information on how the program may relate to you.

PROGRAM COSTS

Like other provinces across Canada, Nova Scotia's program operates on a user-pay system.

This means that the program will cost you an estimated \$1700 to \$2000 for the first year to have the device installed and maintained. This is in addition to the approximately \$400 fee for Addiction Services.

Depending on your circumstance, this cost may vary after your first year in the program.

For a full list of program costs, please see **Appendix B**.

APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAM

You can apply for the program by submitting the following to the Registry of Motor Vehicles:

1. A letter from the Registry of Motor Vehicles stating that you have been identified as a satisfactory participant for the Interlock Program.
2. A completed Alcohol Ignition Interlock Enrollment (application) form. Forms are available on-line at **www.interlock.gov.ns.ca** and all Access Nova Scotia and Registry of Motor Vehicle Offices throughout Nova Scotia.
3. Payment of a \$33.90 (taxes included) non-refundable application fee.*

You can drop off your application at any Access Nova Scotia Centre or you can mail it to:

Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

P.O. Box 1652
Halifax, NS
B3J 2Z3

* Any unrelated suspensions or revocations must first be addressed and all outstanding fines must be paid in full prior to enrolling in the interlock program.

BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE PROGRAM

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles will review your application. Staff will make a decision based on the following information:

- Your driving history, especially in relation to the incidents of alcohol-related driving
- Any information and recommendations provided by Addiction Services
- Any medical information that may affect your ability to drive
- Any other factors that may affect your ability to operate a motor vehicle

You will receive a letter from the Registry of Motor Vehicles that identifies you as being accepted into the program and approves the installation of an ignition interlock device in your car. **You must bring the letter of acceptance with you when you have the device installed.**

You will also receive a letter notifying you if your application has been denied.

You can expect to receive a response from the Registry of Motor Vehicles within 10-15 business days of submitting your application.

The Program

INSTALLING THE DEVICE

Primary Service Centres

There are four primary service centres in Nova Scotia.

You must visit a primary service centre to have your interlock device **installed, maintained,** and **removed,** and for data monitoring.

These centres are located in:

Bridgewater

SPEEDY GLASS

3 Hebbleville Road, Bridgewater, NS B4V 2X6

Dartmouth

SPEEDY GLASS

109 Ilesley Avenue, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1S8

Sydney

APPLE AUTO GLASS

275 Welton Street, Sydney, NS B1P 5S3

Truro

SPEEDY GLASS

11 Willow Street, Truro, NS B2N 4Z5

DATA MONITORING

The ignition interlock device keeps a record of the activity on the device. Every **60 days** you must bring your interlock vehicle into a service centre so that the recorded information on the interlock device can be downloaded.

The recorded information is shared with the Registry of Motor Vehicles and Addiction Services and will be assessed to support either your continuance in, exit out of, or removal from the program.

COST

The cost of having your information downloaded at a primary service centre (\$150 + tax, monthly) is included in the initial estimate.

Secondary Service Centres

In order to make it more convenient for you to have your interlock device information downloaded, **secondary service centres** have been established across the province specifically for this purpose.

At these centres, you may exchange your handset and the handset will be passed along to a primary service centre where the information will be downloaded.

Secondary service centres are any Speedy Glass, Apple Autoglass or Superior Glass locations in:

Speedy Glass

Amherst

Bridgewater

Dartmouth (2)

Halifax

Lower Sackville

Truro

New Minas

Standard Auto Glass

Bridgewater

Port Hawkesbury

Apple Auto Glass

Antigonish

Bridgewater

Coldbrook

Dartmouth (Burnside)

Halifax

New Glasgow

Pubnico

Sackville

Sydney

Windsor

Yarmouth

Secondary Service Cost

If you choose to use a secondary service centre, there may be a cost.

If you live within a 100 km radius of a primary service centre, you must pay an additional \$35 for the convenience of data monitoring at a secondary service centre each time you choose to use this service.

If you live outside of a 100 km radius of a primary service centre, the additional \$35 fee will not be charged.

ALCOHOL REHABILITATION

You will continue to meet with your Addiction Services counselor every two months while you are in the program. It is your responsibility to meet with Addiction Services within 10 days of visiting a service centre to have your recorded information downloaded. Please note that the frequency of counseling sessions may vary depending upon your particular needs.

Purpose of the Meetings

- To review and assess your situation
- To explore the harmful effects of alcohol use from a physiological, social, and legal standpoint
- To help you make a plan to avoid problems associated with drinking and driving based on your unique needs
- To monitor your progress with your plan

Below is contact information for an Addiction Services centre near you:

Lunenburg	902-634-7325
Bridgewater	902-543-7882
Yarmouth	902-742-2406
Kentville	902-679-2392
Middleton	902-825-6828
Amherst	902-667-7094
New Glasgow	902-755-7017
Truro	902-893-5900
Elmsdale	902-883-0295
Sydney	902-563-2590
Antigonish	902-863-5393
Port Hawkesbury	902-625-2363
Halifax	902-424-1118

Website: www.addictionservices.ns.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I have the device installed in a car that does not belong to me?

Yes, as long as you present authorization from the vehicle owner that clearly gives you permission to have the device installed. There is a section on the enrollment form dedicated to such a circumstance.

The owner can take away the authorization at any time and for any reason and it is up to you to ensure that the device is removed immediately. If the owner decides to take back their permission to allow an "interlock" driver to use the vehicle, this must be provided to the Registry of Motor Vehicles in writing. Verbal removal of consent will not be processed.

What happens if I leave the province?

If you are considering traveling outside the province, you must first contact your home Service Centre. They will advise you of the proper procedures required, which will involve putting you in contact with the Program Manager for Guardian Interlock.

How will the police know that I am in the Interlock Program?

Once you've been approved and your device has been installed, you will be issued a special licence that identifies you as a participant in the Interlock Program. This is a valid licence as long as you remain compliant with the program requirements. Your Interlock Driver's Licence will carry a large red "R" on the front and "Ignition Interlock" will be printed on the back to identify you as a participant.

You are only permitted to drive the "interlock" vehicle that is registered with the program. If you are caught driving any other vehicle, you are considered disqualified and can be charged under the Criminal Code of Canada.

If I have the interlock installed in my car, can another driver use it?

Another person can drive the vehicle, but since the device is hard wired into the car, he or she must blow into the device to start the ignition. Other drivers in your household will receive training from the Service Provider on how to use the device.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Contact us at

Phone: 902-424-5851 (metro)
1-800-898-7668 (toll free)
Email: askus@gov.ns.ca

Appendix A

HOW THE INTERLOCK PROGRAM WORKS

The program is based on the number of impaired driving convictions you have had. Please check below for the category that applies to you.

First Conviction – MINIMUM 1 YEAR LICENCE REVOCATION PERIOD

If you have been assessed by Addiction Services as a low or medium risk to re-offend:

- You MAY CHOOSE to enter the Interlock program.
- You can apply for the program after the first 3 months of your revocation period has expired.

If you are accepted into the program, then the minimum period that you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device is for the remainder of your revocation period.

First Conviction – MINIMUM 1 YEAR LICENCE REVOCATION PERIOD

If you have been assessed by Addiction Services as a high risk to re-offend:

- You MUST enter the Interlock program if you wish to regain your driver's licence.
- You can apply for the program after the first 3 months of your revocation period has expired.

If you are accepted into the program, then you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device for a minimum of 1 year.

Second Conviction – MINIMUM 3 YEAR LICENCE REVOCATION PERIOD

- You MUST enter the Interlock program if you wish to regain your driver's licence.
- You can apply for the program after the first 6 months of your revocation period has expired.

If you are accepted into the program with 2 or more years left in your revocation period, then the minimum period that you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device is for the remainder of your revocation period.

If you are accepted into the program and you have less than 2 years left in your revocation period, then you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device for a minimum of 2 years.

Third Conviction – MINIMUM 10 YEAR LICENCE REVOCATION PERIOD

- You MUST enter the Interlock program if you wish to regain your driver’s licence.
- You can apply for the program after the first 12 months of your revocation period has expired.

If you are accepted into the program with 3 or more years left in your revocation period, then the minimum period that you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device is for the remainder of your revocation period.

If you are accepted into the program and you have less than 3 years left in your revocation period, then you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device for a minimum of 3 years.

Causing Death or Bodily Harm, First Conviction

– MINIMUM 5 YEAR LICENCE REVOCATION PERIOD

- You MUST enter the Interlock program if you wish to regain your driver’s licence.
- You can apply for the program after your 5 year revocation period has expired.

If you are accepted into the program, then you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device for a minimum of 2 years.

Causing Death or Bodily Harm, Second Conviction

– MINIMUM 10 YEAR LICENCE REVOCATION PERIOD

- You MUST enter the Interlock program if you wish to regain your driver’s licence.
- You can apply for the program after your 10 year revocation period has expired.

If you are accepted into the program, then you must drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device for a minimum of 5 years.

Appendix B

NOVA SCOTIA FEE SCHEDULE, 2008–2009^{1*}

INSTALLATION	(\$)	CLIENT FEE
Install/Re-install ²		150.00
Surcharge for Heavy Trucks/Special Vehicles ³		100.00
De-install		50.00
 MONITORING		
Monitoring fee (per month) ⁴		105.00
Remote Monitoring Fee ⁵		35.00
Reduced Interval Monitoring Fee ⁶		35.00
 OTHER		
Additional Sample Head (per month)		35.00
Smart Code/Smart Key Service ⁷		50.00
Unscheduled Service ⁸		35.00
Violation Reset.....		65.00
Canceled/Missed Appointment ⁹		
Installation.....		150.00
Monitoring/Service		75.00

Continued on next page...

¹ Applicable taxes will be added to all fees and other charges
² Includes training and set-up
³ Includes, but is not limited to, luxury and high performance automobiles
⁴ All monthly charges are calculated on a per diem basis
⁵ Refers to monitoring at a location other than an installation centre
⁶ Refers to monitoring not required by administering authorities and/or service provider
⁷ Applicable shipping charges will be added to the amount shown
⁸ Refers to user-initiated service other than a violation reset
⁹ Charges apply to clients who fail to reschedule appointments at least 24 hours in advance
* Fees are subject to change without notice.

NOVA SCOTIA FEE SCHEDULE, 2008–2009^{1*} continued...

DAMAGE/REPLACEMENT CHARGES	(\$)	CLIENT FEE
Loss Protection Plan Option (per month)	10.00	
Security Deposit ¹⁰	250.00	
Stand-By Option (per month) ¹¹	10.00	
Early Termination	210.00	
Reinstatement Fee ¹²	75.00	
Temporary Disconnect/Reconnect	75.00	
Service Call ¹³		
Hourly Rate ¹⁴	95.00	
Charge per km.	0.50	
Damage Repair ¹⁵	At cost	
Replacement		
WR2/WR3 Handset	1295.00	
WR2/WR3 Interface Module	895.00	
Auxiliary Lamp Assembly	65.00	
Tach Sensor	150.00	
Smart Key	150.00	
Coil Cable	150.00	
Wiring Harness	150.00	
Alarm Horn	25.00	

¹⁰ Payable in event that Loss Protection Plan is declined

¹¹ Restricted to commercial vehicles

¹² Administration fee charged to clients who are reinstated without a de-install or re-install

¹³ A remote de-install is charged as a service call

¹⁴ Minimum charge is \$45.00

¹⁵ Minimum Charge is \$75.00

* Fees are subject to change without notice.