

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 as well 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 the *Getting your licence issued* section for more information about applying for an alcohol interlock licence.

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

Step 3: install an alcohol interlock

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

There are two approved providers of alcohol interlocks. These are:

Draeger New Zealand Ltd

Phone: 0800 DRAGER (0800 372 437)

Fax: 09 271 4690

Email: interlocknz@draeger.com

Web: www.draeger.com/interlockNZ

Smart Start Interlocks

Phone: 0800 002 182

Fax: 09 431 9048

Email: info@smartstartinterlocks.co.nz

Web: www.smartstartinterlocks.co.nz

They both have approved installers all over New Zealand. Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/AID-installer to find an installer near you, and then contact your chosen provider to find out more about arranging for the lease and installation of an alcohol interlock.

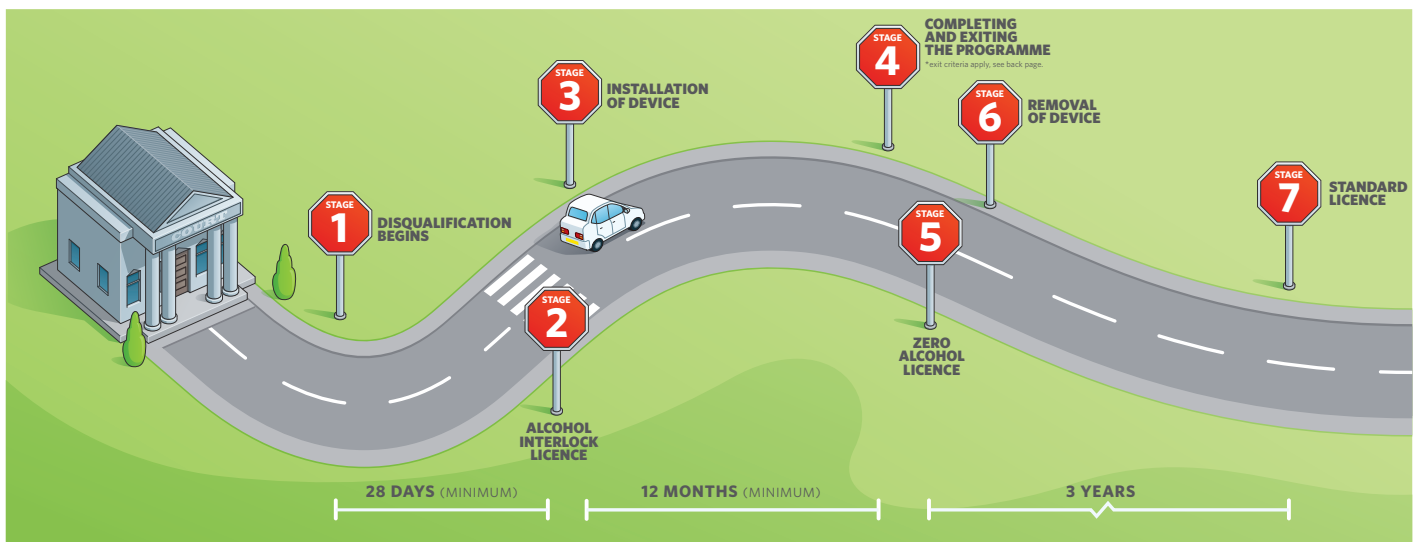
You'll need to pay an installation fee and a monthly lease fee to the installer. These fees may vary. The approved provider/installer can tell you the fees payable.

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

Driving with the alcohol interlock

The driver breathes 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.

Use of the interlock is not limited to just starting the vehicle. The driver is also required to provide a breath sample at random times when the vehicle is in use. 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 is not taken to an installer for a scheduled service and data download, then the interlock device will prevent the vehicle from being started until the installer services the alcohol interlock.

Step 4: approval to exit the alcohol interlock licence stage of the programme

When you can exit the alcohol interlock programme will depend on when you were given an alcohol interlock sentence.

If you were sentenced before 1 July 2018, you'll need to have held your **alcohol interlock licence for at least 12 months** before you can apply to exit this stage of the programme.

If you were sentenced on or after 1 July 2018*, you'll need to have had an **alcohol interlock device installed in your vehicle for at least 12 months** before you can apply to exit this stage of the programme.

***Note:** if your alcohol interlock sentence replaces a previous indefinite disqualification that hadn't been ended, you **must** meet option 2 below.

If you meet the above criteria, the Transport Agency will grant approval if you meet either of the following criteria:

Option 1:	Option 2:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You haven't committed any violations in the 6-month period immediately preceding your request to exit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You haven't committed any violations in the 3-month period immediately preceding your request to exit, and You've successfully completed a drug and alcohol assessment at a Ministry of Health approved assessment centre.

For option 2, go to www.nzta.govt.nz/moh-assessment-centres to find out where your nearest approved drug and alcohol assessment centre is. Or, you can call us on 0800 822 422 or email info@nzta.govt.nz.

When you're ready to exit the alcohol interlock stage of the programme, take your vehicle to the installer for a final reading and then call us straight away on 0800 822 422 to start the exit process.

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

This means that if you do any of the following during the period being assessed (ie three months or six months), you **will not** be granted approval to exit the alcohol interlock stage:

- Tamper with the alcohol interlock device.
- Fail an initial or rolling retest administered by the device because of your breath alcohol level.
- Fail to do two 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 two or more scheduled inspections/services.

Once the Transport Agency has granted approval, you move to step 5.

Step 5: obtaining a zero alcohol licence

After approval to exit the alcohol interlock licence stage of the programme, you can apply to have a zero alcohol licence issued. See the *Getting your licence issued* section for more information.

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 been issued with your zero alcohol licence.

Step 6: 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 three 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 7: issue of 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 the *Getting your licence issued* section 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 to find a driver licensing agent in your area.

You'll need to:

- submit a completed *Application for alcohol interlock or zero alcohol licence* form (DL8) which you can download from www.nzta.govt.nz/form-DL8
- provide evidence of your identity - this can be:
 - your New Zealand photo driver licence (which must be current or expired up to two years) or
 - your current New Zealand passport, or
 - two other forms of acceptable evidence of identity (see Factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing* 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 licence application fee OR take evidence that you're eligible for an alcohol interlock subsidy (see the Alcohol interlock subsidy section below).
The application fees are \$200 for an alcohol interlock licence or \$66.40 for a zero alcohol licence or licence reinstatement.

If you were disqualified for more than 12 months, you'll also need to pass the appropriate tests (and pay the test fees) to regain the licence class(es) you held previously. See Factsheet 55 *Driving offences and penalties* for more information.

Alcohol interlock subsidy

We may grant you subsidy assistance if your financial circumstances qualify you for a subsidy.

You may be eligible for a subsidy if:

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

To prove that you meet the eligibility criteria, you can either:

- 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 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)
- 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. 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 services.

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 Veterans' Support Act 2014, or
- your family or superannuation income is within the limits listed below:

If your household is:	then your yearly income (before tax) can be up to:
Single - living with others	\$26,688
Single - living alone	\$28,322
Married, civil union or de facto couple - no children	\$42,352
NZ Superannuation single - living with others	\$27,571
NZ Superannuation single - living alone	\$29,299
NZ Superannuation married, civil union or de facto couple - no children	\$43,872
Family of 2	\$50,673
Family of 3	\$61,224
Family of 4	\$69,616
Family of 5	\$77,835
Family of 6	\$87,020
For families of more than 6, the limit goes up another \$8095 for each extra person.	

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

The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website (www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets) or call us on 0800 822 422.

Commonly asked questions

Can I supply my own alcohol interlock?

No. If you are 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 device 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 on your alcohol interlock.

Can I keep the alcohol interlock afterwards?

Yes. Check with the approved provider who can advise you on the options for continuing to lease or buying outright the alcohol interlock.

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

You can apply to renew, replace or reinstate your alcohol interlock licence. However, you're not entitled to get a limited licence or to get any new licence classes or endorsements. This means if you only hold a restricted licence, then you can't get a full licence until your alcohol interlock licence has ended.

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 for more information.

Where you can find out more

- Email us: info@nzta.govt.nz.
- View our website: www.nzta.govt.nz/licence
- Call us: 0800 822 422.
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.

Contact details

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Overview of the alcohol interlock programme

