

## What is an ignition interlock?

An ignition interlock is a device that is installed in a motor vehicle to prevent alcohol-impaired individuals from driving. Before starting the vehicle, you will be required to blow into the ignition interlock's mouthpiece to provide a breath sample for analysis. If your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is above the pre-set limit (0.02), the vehicle will not start. Once the vehicle is started, you may be required to submit additional breath samples at random times while the engine is running. Tailing, or not submitting a breath sample for one of these "rolling retests" will cause your vehicle headlights, parking lights, or emergency lights to flash and your horn to sound. The ignition interlock contains a datalogger that records all vehicle activity, test results, and violations.

## Why must I have an ignition interlock?

The Code of Virginia, 18.2-270.1, states that an offender convicted of driving under the influence in Virginia shall be required to have an ignition interlock device installed on his/her car as a condition of a restricted license or license restoration.

## Should I be concerned about any licensing issues?

Per Virginia Code 18.2-270.1, individuals who fail to abide by all licensing requirements will receive no credit for interlock installation time past the 60-day allotted time in their restricted license order until they come into licensing compliance through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

## What if I own more than one vehicle?

Current Virginia law requires that, for a first driving under the influence conviction, an ignition interlock shall be installed on any motor vehicle operated by the offender. If convicted of a 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent driving under the influence conviction, an ignition interlock shall be installed on all motor vehicles owned by or registered to the offender, in whole or in part.

## How do I get the ignition interlock installed?

You are required to contact your servicing ASAP office to provide pertinent information, to include your independent choice of an interlock vendor, to initiate an interlock installation authorization. Once the ASAP verifies the interlock requirement and authorizes the interlock installation, it is your responsibility to contact the interlock vendor to schedule the installation appointment.

## How do I schedule an installation appointment?

Any person who enters into the Alcohol Safety Action Program, prior to trial, may pre-qualify with the program to have an ignition interlock system installed on any motor vehicle owned or operated by him/her. You must contact the ASAP program in the jurisdiction of your offense to enroll and pay the ASAP fee. The ASAP will make arrangements to pre-qualify you for ignition interlock. However, no installation can occur until a court issues to the person a restricted license with the ignition interlock restriction. You may select one of the five authorized service providers:

*Dräger, Inc. / RoadGuard  
roadguardinterlock.com  
833-545-0368*

### LifeSafer

[www.lifesafert.com](http://www.lifesafert.com)  
(866) 202-3381

### Smart Start, Inc.

[www.smartstartinc.com](http://www.smartstartinc.com)  
(800) 880-3394

## How do I operate the ignition interlock?

When you report for your installation appointment, the vendor will provide you with detailed instructions and training regarding the proper operation and care of the ignition interlock device.

## What do I need to bring to the installation appointment?

You should bring a valid picture identification and the vehicle registration card. If you are having the interlock installed on someone else's vehicle, you will need for the owner to either come with you to the installation appointment or provide a notarized statement authorizing installation of the device. If other family members will be driving the vehicle, they should come with you to the appointment for training.

## How often do I have to report to the vendor's service center?

After the initial installation of the ignition interlock, you will be required to report to the vendor's service center at least every 30 days. During these visits, the vendor will download all data from the datalogger and calibrate the device. You are responsible for making these monthly monitoring appointments with the vendor.

## How much does the ignition interlock cost?

Vendors may charge up to \$65 for a normal installation and up to \$130 for complex installations, up to \$95 for each monthly monitoring appointment, and there is no charge for removal of the interlock device. You may also purchase optional insurance to cover certain causes of loss to the interlock device. The above prices do not include applicable taxes or fees for returned checks.

## What happens if I miss my monitoring appointment?

State law requires that your ignition interlock be calibrated at least every 30 days. Failure to abide by this requirement will result in the interlock device permanently locking out your ability to start the vehicle in addition to possible costs and fees.

## What are the penalties for not complying with the ignition interlock program?

Your AS/AP case manager will review the conditions of your probation and ignition interlock requirement and require you to sign a participation agreement. Violations include positive BACs on breath tests, failing to submit to a test when required, failing to report to the vendor's service center for required appointments, tampering with the ignition interlock device, circumvention of the camera, and driving a vehicle not equipped with an ignition interlock. Some of these violations may result in additional criminal charges. All violations will be reported to your AS/AP case manager resulting in an extension of your ignition interlock requirement and may result in your case being returned to court for non-compliance.

## Can I change interlock vendors?

Once you have selected a vendor, you will generally be required to use the same vendor for at least six months. Authorization to change vendors will only be granted if it can be shown that there was a problem with the service provided by the original vendor.

## What if I have a complaint?

If you experience any problems related to your device or service, you should first advise the vendor or your AS/AP case manager. If your problem is not successfully resolved, you may contact the director of your assigned AS/AP. The Commission on VASAP is available for you at (804) 786-5895 if your problem is not resolved by one of the means referenced above.

# IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM



THE COMMISSION ON  
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Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program

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