

# Ignition Interlock Program



- What is an ignition interlock device
- How to participate
- Questions & answers



**Manitoba  
Public Insurance**

## Ignition Interlock Program

The goal of Manitoba's Ignition Interlock Program is to assist drivers who drink and drive to change that behaviour. Participation in the program is either mandatory or voluntary, depending on the situation.

- If you have been convicted of an impaired driving offence, you are required by Manitoba law to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program once your driving suspension has expired to qualify for a driver's licence reinstatement.

The term lengths are:

- one year for the first and second convictions
  - three years for the third conviction
  - lifetime for the fourth and subsequent convictions
- If you are currently serving a driver's licence suspension due to an impaired driving conviction or a Tiered Administrative Licence Suspension\* and are seeking conditional driving privileges, you may qualify for voluntary participation in the Ignition Interlock Program. To participate, you must also be granted a conditional licence by the Licence Suspension Appeal Board (LSAB) and meet all other requirements.



If you qualify to participate in the program, an ignition interlock device will be installed in your vehicle. The device is designed to stop a vehicle from starting or operating when the driver has been drinking.

*\*Drivers operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration between .05 and .08 or who fail a physical coordination test or drug recognition evaluation are subject to an immediate Tiered Administrative Licence Suspension. Tiered Administrative Licence Suspensions are progressively longer suspensions ranging from 72 hours to 60 days, depending on how many previous suspensions have been issued to the driver within a 10-year period.*

## **What is an ignition interlock device and how does it work?**

An ignition interlock device is an in-car, alcohol breath-screening device that is wired into the vehicle's ignition. It stops a vehicle from starting if it detects alcohol on the driver's breath. The device is located inside the vehicle near the driver's seat.

Before starting the vehicle, the driver must blow into the device. If the device detects alcohol, the vehicle will not start.

Once the vehicle is started, the device requires the driver to provide breath samples at random while the engine is running. If a sample is not provided or if the device detects alcohol, the device will issue a warning, record the event and set off an alarm system until an acceptable sample is provided or the ignition is turned off.

The device keeps a record of the driver's alcohol level every time there is an attempt to start the vehicle and for every sample provided while the vehicle is running.

## How to participate during a current driver's licence suspension

**Step 1** – You must be granted a conditional driver's licence in order to participate in this program.

To obtain a conditional licence if you have been convicted of an impaired driving offence you must:

- be granted permission by the court to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program and have your driving prohibition period reduced
- serve the minimum prohibition period ordered by the court
- file an assessment from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba for approval
- apply to the LSAB for a conditional licence on the grounds of exceptional hardship (You may be asked to provide a letter from your employer to support your need for a driver's licence. Even if the court authorized you to apply for the Ignition Interlock Program, the LSAB can deny an application in the interest of public safety.)

To obtain a conditional licence if you have been issued a Tiered Administrative Licence Suspension you must:

- apply to the LSAB for a conditional licence on the grounds of exceptional hardship (You may be asked to provide a letter from your employer to support your need for a driver's licence. The LSAB can deny an application in the interest of public safety.)

Applications are available at any Manitoba Public Insurance Service Centre or the LSAB office at:

200–301 Weston Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3H4  
Telephone: 204–945–7350

You will be advised of the LSAB's decision by certified mail.

**Step 2** – If the LSAB grants you a conditional driver's licence, you must also meet all other licensing requirements established by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. All licensing charges and an ignition interlock administration charge of \$250 must be paid at a Manitoba Public Insurance Service Centre.

**Step 3** – Contact the designated ignition interlock service provider in Manitoba to arrange for installation of the ignition interlock device. You will be required to produce your administration charge receipt.



**Step 4** – Report to the ignition interlock service provider regularly to have the ignition interlock device serviced.

## How to participate after a driver's licence suspension

**Step 1** – You must file an assessment from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba for approval.

**Step 2** – You must meet all other licensing requirements established by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. All licensing charges and an ignition interlock administration charge of \$250 must be paid at a Manitoba Public Insurance Service Centre.

**Step 3** – Contact the designated ignition interlock service provider in Manitoba to arrange for installation of the ignition interlock device. You will be required to produce your administration charge receipt.

**Step 4** – Report to the ignition interlock service provider regularly to have the ignition interlock device serviced.

### Basic program charges\*

Administration charge: **\$250.00**

Installation charge: **\$145.00**

Monitoring charge (per month): **\$89.00**

De-installation charge: **\$50.00**

The costs to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program are your responsibility. For further information on installation, maintenance and removal costs, contact Smart Start Inc., the official service provider for this program, at 1-844-432-4776.

Financing options may be available through Manitoba Public Insurance.

*\*Applicable taxes will be added to all charges.*

## Questions & answers

### **What will happen if I don't comply with the Ignition Interlock Program rules?**

If you do not comply with the rules of the Ignition Interlock Program, you may be subject to one of the following:

- extension of the ignition interlock term
- removal from the program
- driver's licence suspension

### **What will happen if I operate a vehicle without an ignition interlock device while in the program?**

You may be subject to a charge of Driving While Disqualified. If convicted of this offence, your Driver Safety Rating will drop 10 levels down the scale and you will receive either a mandatory suspension or be required to attend a show cause hearing, where further sanctions such as completion of a driver improvement course may be determined.

### **What will happen if I am convicted of tampering with the device?**

You can be ordered to:

- pay a fine of up to \$1,000
- be imprisoned for up to six months
- pay a fine and be imprisoned
- re-apply to the LSAB for further consideration

## **Can someone who is not in the Ignition Interlock Program be charged with an offence?**

Yes, you can be charged with an offence if you:

- are a vehicle owner who knows that a person is in the Ignition Interlock Program and let that person drive your vehicle without an ignition interlock device
- provide a breath sample for another person

## **Can drivers with breathing problems use the ignition interlock device?**

Yes. Most breathing problems will not stop you from operating the device. Only a few seconds of non-stop blowing into the device is required. The ignition interlock provider will provide advice and assistance for specific problems.





## Will other people be able to drive the vehicle?

Yes. However, anyone who drives the vehicle, including family and friends, must use the ignition interlock device before they can start the vehicle. The device has a number of features that make it difficult to provide a proper breath sample without having been shown by a qualified service technician. Each breath sample is recorded and applies to the record of the program participant.

## Can a driver be required to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program without an impaired driving conviction?

Yes, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles can order you to take part in the program as a condition of your driver's licence.

For more information on the Ignition Interlock Program, please contact:

### **Manitoba Public Insurance Driver Fitness Program**

Box 6300, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4A4

Telephone: **204-985-7694**

Toll free: **1-866-323-0546**



This pamphlet is for general information only. For specific information about the legislation see *The Highway Traffic Act* and/or *The Drivers and Vehicles Act* and regulations. All charges, additional premiums and fines are subject to change.



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