

Alcohol interlock-controlled driving rights

What does 'alcohol interlock-controlled driving rights' mean?

A person suspected of driving while intoxicated or driving while seriously intoxicated (due to alcohol) may have his or her driving rights reinstated by having an alcohol interlock installed in his or her vehicle for the duration of a conditional driving ban. The granting of controlled driving rights has no impact on any sentence eventually imposed for driving while intoxicated. A person subject to controlled driving rights may only drive vehicles equipped with an alcohol interlock.

Who can be granted controlled driving rights?

Controlled driving rights may be granted to a person permanently residing in Finland who has been found guilty of driving while intoxicated due to alcohol but who does not have a driving ban imposed on him or her for any other reason. Such a person must also have been previously granted the right to drive a car, van, truck, bus or tractor. The alcohol interlock may be installed in one or more vehicles used by the driver subject to controlled driving rights.

What is an alcohol interlock and how does it work?

The alcohol interlock is a breathalyser that prevents the vehicle from starting if the driver has 0.1 mg or more of alcohol per litre of exhaled air, which corresponds to a blood alcohol concentration of about 0.2 per mille.

The alcohol interlock also requires the driver to repeat the breathalyser test at random intervals while driving. The interlock will not turn off the engine if it is running, but if the driver fails to perform the test while driving within the specified time limit or exceeds the limit set for alcohol concentration, the vehicle horn will begin to sound continuously. The alcohol inter-

lock stores all user data, including any attempts of manipulation, in the memory of its CPU.

Where to acquire an alcohol interlock?

Only some of the alcohol interlocks on the market are officially approved for use under controlled driving rights. [Check the alcohol interlocks approved by Traficom](#). You may ask for alcohol interlocks from service providers installing them. [See a list on the service providers installing alcohol interlocks \(in Finnish\)](#).

Can anyone else drive a vehicle fitted with an alcohol interlock?

Other persons may freely drive a vehicle fitted with an alcohol interlock. However, the driver subject to controlled driving rights is responsible for ensuring that the alcohol interlock is used in accordance with regulations.

How can a driver apply for alcohol interlock-controlled driving rights?

The driver can request an alcohol interlock-controlled right to drive from the police already during the pre-trial investigation even if the criminal matter has not yet been resolved. The request may also be submitted in writing.

The driver subject to controlled driving rights is required to visit a doctor or another healthcare professional to discuss intoxicant use, its health impacts and treatment options. The driver must request a certificate of the conversation, stating the purpose of the appointment. The certificate is submitted to the police.

The vehicle must be subjected to an alteration inspection after the installation of the alcohol interlock. An entry about the alcohol interlock will be made in the registration details of the vehicle.

An entry will be made in the driver's driving licence about the EU-harmonised code 69 and the national special condition 111, meaning an

obligation to use an alcohol interlock. An alcohol interlock driving licence only entitles the holder to drive a vehicle equipped with a functioning alcohol interlock.

For how long does an alcohol interlock need to be kept in the vehicle?

A person subject to controlled driving rights must have an alcohol interlock installed in his or her vehicle for the whole duration of the conditional driving ban.

If the driving ban is ordered as conditional, the police must also impose a probationary period of one year at a minimum and three years at a maximum. The probationary period begins from the date when the decision with a conditional driving ban is imposed and ends on the day determined in the driving ban decision.

The driver must always use the alcohol interlock while driving during the probationary period, i.e. at least for one year, regardless of the length of the conditional driving ban.

What happens to the driving licence?

When a driver is caught driving while intoxicated, the police impose a temporary driving ban on him or her and confiscate his or her driving licence.

The controlled right to drive commences when the police issue the person subject to controlled driving rights with a temporary driving licence with an entry of the special condition on the use of an alcohol interlock. The police may issue a temporary driving licence even before the case of driving while intoxicated has been processed.

After seeing the police about the matter, the driver subject to controlled driving rights must obtain a new driving licence. This driving licence will have an entry on the special condition 69 (111), telling about the obligation to use an alcohol interlock.

The new driving licence is ordered from [a service point of Traficom's service provider Ajovarma](#) or from [Traficom's e-Services](#).

The driver may use Traficom's e-Services if the driver has previously supplied his or her photo and signature in digital form to the service.

What can lead to the revoking of controlled driving rights?

Controlled driving rights shall be revoked if the driver subject to controlled driving rights violates any of the restrictions related to controlled driving rights or tampers with the alcohol interlock in violation of the Alcohol Interlock Device Act (730/2016).

Controlled driving rights shall be revoked if the driver subject to controlled driving rights is found guilty of causing a serious traffic hazard, driving while intoxicated, driving while seriously intoxicated or the transport of hazardous materials. Controlled driving rights shall also be revoked if the driver subject to controlled driving rights requests their revocation. If controlled driving rights are revoked, the driving ban imposed as conditional for the duration of the controlled driving rights will enter into force. The decision on the driving ban will be made by the police.

What happens after the expiry of the controlled driving rights period (the probationary period of the conditional driving ban)?

It is recommended that the alcohol interlock be left in place in the vehicle. In such a case, the settings of the device can be changed to voluntary use (no testing while driving).

The driver may also have the alcohol interlock removed from the vehicle. The vehicle must be subjected to an alteration inspection after the removal of the alcohol interlock.

The alcohol interlock driving licence is returned to the police. The police will then return the driver's original driving licence. In certain cases, the person must order a new normal driving licence from an Ajovarma service point or Traficom's e-services.

The driver may also decide to keep the alcohol interlock driving licence after the controlled driving rights period expires. This means that the driver will still only be allowed to drive a vehicle fitted with an alcohol interlock.

Regulations:

Alcohol Interlock Device Act (730/2016)

Driving Licence Act (386/2011), chapter 7

Traficom's Alcohol Interlock Device Regulation
(TRAFI/118120/03.04.03.00/2016)

Further information:

Read more about alcohol interlock-controlled driving rights from [the police website](#) and from [Traficom's website](#).