

Ignition Interlock Program

What is the Ignition Interlock Program?

Alberta's Ignition Interlock Program is designed to help individuals separate the behaviours of impairment and/or high-risk behaviour driving, used as an educational tool and deterrent to prevent re-offending, and prevent high-risk drivers from operating their motor vehicle while impaired.

This Ignition Interlock Program involves the installation of an ignition interlock device in a vehicle which will measure the blood alcohol concentration levels of the driver and will "lock" the ignition if a blood alcohol concentration reading is above the specified threshold level.

The Ignition Interlock Program may allow the individual to obtain conditional driving privileges if an individual has had their driving privileges suspended through an impaired driving-related *Criminal Code* (Canada) conviction or through the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Program.

Alberta's Ignition Interlock Program is administered by Alberta Transportation, Driver Fitness and Monitoring, and as of April 9, 2018, has evolved into two different but related participation programs of:

Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program – This Program is initiated by the Province as a result of being served with an Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension for being suspected of criminal-level impaired driving. As of April 9, 2018, drivers issued an Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension will serve:

- a 90-day driving suspension where the suspended driver is unable to drive under any circumstances, followed by a further one year licence suspension where the suspended driver may be eligible to drive on the condition that they participate in Alberta's Ignition Interlock Program.
- If they choose not to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program, they will remain suspended during this one year suspension term with **no ability to drive legally**.

Should criminal charges also apply, this may result in a federal driving prohibition, additional driver's licence suspension term and participation in the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program.

Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program - The Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program is initiated as a result of a *Criminal Code* (Canada) conviction of an impaired driving offence in Alberta, where the Courts have indicated that the driver must comply with the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program as part of their Reinstatement Conditions. Drivers must demonstrate a sustained ability to separate high-risk driving behaviors by completing the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program before their Driver's Licence can be fully reinstated.

Are there any exemptions to the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program?

There are no exemptions to the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program. If an individual cannot participate for any reason (e.g. financial, hardships, medical conditions, etc.), the individual will be required to serve the entire suspension, consisting of 90-days plus one year.

Ignition Interlock Exemptions exist for the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program only:

An individual may apply for an exemption from the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program (please allow **6-8 weeks** for Alberta Transportation to process the exemption request) when they have completed all of the Reinstatement Conditions, aside from the requirements of the Road Test, payment of the Reinstatement Fee, and the outstanding Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program. The following documents and information must be submitted with any Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program Exemption Request:

- Driver's Licence Number or Motor Vehicle Identification Number (MVID).
- Full name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number, and email address (if applicable).
- The reason(s) why it is not feasible to comply with the Ignition Interlock Program requirement. Feasibility is defined as an applicant's physical inability to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program. An applicant's financial considerations, constraints, or hardships will not be considered for an exemption.
- Additional verification may be required, such as signed correspondence from the physician(s) with clinical evidence supporting the exemption request.

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Please note: Exemptions related to hardship due to financial reasons or occupation are not permitted under the *Traffic Safety Act*.

- Applicants approved for an exemption from the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program are still required to complete the terms of their disqualification / suspension period. If individuals are approved for exemption, the Registrar may impose a further period of disqualification or another term or condition to ensure public safety.
- An assessment of the request will be completed once Driver Fitness and Monitoring has received all of the required documentation above. The documents can be submitted either by mail, in-person, email or fax (contact information available below).
- If the exemption request is approved, a revised Notice of Suspension will be mailed to the individual and the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program reinstatement condition will no longer apply to the suspension.
- If the exemption request is denied, correspondence will be mailed advising why the individual does not qualify. Decisions of the Registrar (Transportation) may be appealed to the Alberta Transportation Safety Board (ATSB). For information regarding appeals, please refer to their website at www.atsb.alberta.ca.

Steps involved in applying and participating in either Ignition Interlock Program:

- Review the information on the Provincial Notice of Suspension (for the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program) or in the “**Order of Driving Prohibition Against an Offender**” received in Court (for the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program), and determine eligibility prior to paying the application fee, as the fee is non-refundable.
- Applicants must be a resident of Alberta to be eligible for an Alberta Restricted Driver’s Licence.
- Applicant must purchase an application form from any Alberta Registry Agent, **after first reading this document and agreeing to the Terms and Conditions**.
- Applicants may apply to Alberta Transportation, Driver Fitness and Monitoring for either Ignition Interlock Program, when they have 30-days or less remaining in the minimum prohibition/suspension term on the Notice of Suspension (for the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Program), or as indicated on your “Order of Driving Prohibition Against an Offender” received in Court (as part of the *Criminal Code* (Canada) conviction).
 - Please note that submitting applications in excess of 30-days remaining in the minimum prohibition / suspension or federal driving prohibition term can cause further delays in processing. Applications submitted too early may be denied and returned.
- Applicants must not be currently serving any other suspension(s) other than the impaired driving suspension, otherwise the application will be denied.
- The applicant must fully complete and sign / date their portion of the application; otherwise it will be returned for completion before it can be processed.
- Once Driver Fitness and Monitoring receives and approves the application for either Ignition Interlock Program, the applicant will receive the signed / approved application in the mail. Applications are processed generally within 30 days (plus additional time for mailing) from the date of receipt, and in the order in which they are received.
 - If an applicant requires confirmation their application has been successfully received, they are recommended to utilize a method offering tracking, for example, a read receipt by email, fax confirmation, or by registered mail. Once submitted, our office is unable to provide confirmation that an application has been received.
 - Once the approved application has been received in the mail, the applicant can contact the Ignition Interlock Program’s Service Provider to make arrangements for the installation of the interlock device. Once the approved application is signed by the installer showing the installation as complete, the individual must present this to the Alberta Registry Agent to have the Restricted Driver’s Licence issued.
- The ignition interlock device must be used by anyone who operates the motor vehicle. Training is provided by the Service Provider.

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- If the ignition interlock device detects a pre-set level of blood alcohol concentration, the driver will not be able to start or drive the motor vehicle. The ignition interlock device keeps an ongoing record of the driver's blood alcohol concentration level during the operation of the motor vehicle through random re-tests throughout the duration of the trip.
- The applicant must bring the motor vehicle to the installer for an inspection 30-days after the initial installation, followed by additional inspections at least once every 60-days. The installer will inspect the equipment and transfer the recorded information to Driver Fitness and Monitoring for review.
- Any Ignition Interlock Program participant:
 - who attempts to tamper, cheat, and/or bypass the ignition interlock device,
 - has their Driver's Licence suspended or cancelled, and/or
 - who is subject to any additional *Traffic Safety Act* suspension or is convicted of any additional driving-related *Criminal Code* (Canada) offence,
 may be immediately removed from the Ignition Interlock Program, have their Restricted Driver's Licence revoked, or Ignition Interlock Program participation terminated until all Reinstatement Conditions have been completed.

The applicant is required to complete and submit their application form, (along with the Order of Driving Prohibition Against an Offender for the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program), either in-person or by mail, email, or fax to:

Mail: Alberta Transportation, Driver Fitness and Monitoring
 Main Floor, Twin Atria Building,
 Room 109, 4999 98 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
 Email: trans.idau@gov.ab.ca
 Fax: 1-855-643-9418
 Phone: 780-427-8230 (Toll-Free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000).

Office hours are 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

In addition to the information above, the following is applicable to the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program:

- If the individual is participating in the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program when Driver Fitness and Monitoring receives the *Criminal Code* (Canada) conviction, they will process the revocation from the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program. As part of this process, Driver Fitness and Monitoring will mail a letter to advise the individual that they have been revoked from the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Ignition Interlock Program to serve the federal driving prohibition. These individuals have the option to:
 - remove the ignition interlock device to serve the federal driving prohibition, and reinstall once they are ready to fulfill the reinstatement requirement of the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program, OR
 - keep and maintain the ignition interlock device in their motor vehicle during the term of the federal driving prohibition (even though they have no ability to legally drive), provided they satisfy the monthly lease costs with the Service Provider. The client may be required to pay for a lock out fee, as they do for all other suspensions, to take the motor vehicle to Service Provider for calibration / reinstatement once ready to participate in the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program.
- Once the individual has served the minimum term of the federal driving prohibition, they may participate in both programs concurrently, however, the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program Terms and Conditions will apply and supersede.
- Do not submit any additional documentation with your application. Any unnecessary documentation submitted with the application will be securely destroyed, and not returned to the applicant.

In addition to the information above, the following is applicable to the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program:

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- The applicant must complete all reinstatement conditions (including attending the IMPACT Course) other than the Road Test and payment of the Reinstatement Fee, prior to having the application approved.
- If the applicant has no criminal conviction of impaired driving within the past 10 years, they must attend the Planning Ahead Course. Applicants may submit their application for approval prior to completing the Planning Ahead Course, however, it must be completed prior to the installation of the ignition interlock device.
- If the applicant has had a second or subsequent criminal conviction for impaired driving within the past 10 years, they must complete the IMPACT Course. This course must be completed prior to submitting the application. Applications cannot be processed and will be returned to the applicant, and cannot be re-submitted until the IMPACT Course is completed.
- Do not submit any additional documentation with your application (other than the “Order of Driving Prohibition Against An Offender” for the Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program). Any unnecessary documentation submitted with the application will be securely destroyed, and not returned to the applicant.
- At the installation / re-installation appointment, the applicant must present the signed / approved application, along with the applicant’s Course Completion Certificate for the Planning Ahead / IMPACT Course to the Service Provider, who will sign the application to validate the installation process. Once the approved application is signed by the installer, the applicant must present this to the Alberta Registry Agent to schedule a Road Test and/or have the new Restricted Driver’s Licence issued.
- The Ignition Interlock Program term length will begin once the individual has installed the Ignition Interlock Device and obtained a Restricted Driver’s Licence. The individual must be issued and maintain a Restricted Driver’s Licence for the entire Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program term, otherwise the Registrar may extend the term or revoke their program participation.

How are applicants notified if they are approved for the Ignition Interlock Program?

- Driver Fitness and Monitoring notifies applicants by mail, unless otherwise indicated, about their acceptance in or rejection from the Ignition Interlock Program.
- If approved, applicants are supplied detailed instructions of the required steps to have the equipment installed in the motor vehicle, the training process, and information on completing the Road Test, if required, in order to obtain a Restricted Driver’s Licence.
- Applications are generally processed within 30 days (plus mailing time), and are processed in the order they are received.
- Driver Fitness and Monitoring may deny any application in the interest of public safety.

What are the Ignition Interlock Program participation costs?

Please prepare for the following approximate costs (does not include GST). Costs are subject to change without notice:

- \$145 for the device installation (there is an additional \$100 surcharge for heavy trucks and specialty vehicles) and \$50 for device removal;
- \$95 per month for the rental of the ignition interlock device;
- \$63 for the Ignition Interlock Program Application, in addition, to the Registry Agent fee;
- \$315 for the Planning Ahead Course or \$925 for the IMPACT Course; if required;
- Fees for the Restricted Driver's Licence and Road Test, when applicable.

Who do I contact for more information?

- Further information regarding Alberta’s Ignition Interlock Program can be found on Alberta Transportation’s website at the following link: www.alberta.ca.
- Please contact Alberta’s current Service Provider, Smart Start Canada ULC., by telephone Toll free at 1-844-432-4776, or visit their website at www.smartstartcanada.ca/contact-us/.
- For additional information on Alberta’s Impaired Driving Programs (Planning Ahead or IMPACT Courses), please contact the Alberta Motor Association (AMA) in Edmonton at 780-430-8811 or toll free in Alberta at 1-800-272-5698, or visit the AMA website at: www.ama.ab.ca/knowledge-base/articles/how-do-i-register-for-the-alberta-impaired-drivers-program-aidp/.

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