

# Ignition Interlock Program

## Fact Sheet

The Ignition Interlock Program (IIP) is a remedial program for drivers who have received alcohol-related driving prohibitions. An ignition interlock device prevents a driver from driving a vehicle if they have alcohol in their body. Program participants are required to have the device installed in all of the vehicles that they drive.

Most North American jurisdictions have ignition interlock programs in place. Program evaluations have consistently found up to a 90% reduction in repeat drinking and driving while the device is installed. The Province of British Columbia has partnered with Smart Start Canada (Smart Start) to deliver the program. The IIP is a user-pay program.

### What is an Ignition Interlock Device?

An ignition interlock is a device wired into a vehicle's ignition system. The device requires the driver to provide a breath sample and prevents the vehicle from starting if alcohol is detected. The device also demands breath samples at random intervals while the vehicle is operational to ensure the driver remains alcohol-free while driving his or her vehicle.

Activity on the device is recorded and stored in the device handset. The device also records all attempts to tamper with it. If someone attempts to disconnect or bypass the device, or if a breath test is failed, the device will repeatedly warn the driver to shut down the vehicle. If these warnings are ignored, the

device's alarm will sound until the vehicle is shut down.

### Participation

Under Section 25.2 of the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA), drivers whose driving records meet the criteria prescribed in the MVA Regulations (Regulations) are required to complete the IIP. Referrals made under section 25.2 of the MVA are not eligible for a reconsideration process.

If a driving record does not meet the criteria prescribed in the Regulations but is found to be unsatisfactory by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, a driver may still be required to participate in the IIP under Section 25.1 of the MVA. A driver may apply for a reconsideration of a referral made to the IIP under Section 25.1 of the MVA.

### Participating in the Program

A driver convicted of impaired driving may lose his or her driver's licence and may be required to complete a rehabilitation program – such as the RDP - before they can get the interlock device installed.

Drivers referred to the IIP who are otherwise eligible for licensing will need to get the interlock device installed and may attend the RDP concurrently if they wish to continue driving. Once the device is installed, participating drivers are required to abide by all conditions of the program. These conditions are set out in the driver's client service

agreement with Smart Start. Drivers are required to create a maintenance schedule to attend the interlock service centre so that program activity can be downloaded from the device.

The information from the activity reports is used by the Superintendent to help decide whether someone is ready for their full driving privileges to be restored at the end of the interlock term.

### Completing the Program

The Superintendent will review the program activity reports during the interlock term. As long as there have been no program violations, and subject to a final violation-free program activity report, the driver will be able to have the interlock device removed at the end of their term.

Once these requirements have been met and the device has been removed, the driver can go to an ICBC Driver Licensing Office to apply for a driver's licence without an interlock restriction.

### What are the basic fees for Smart Start Canada?

The IIP is a user-pay program. When the device is installed, drivers will pay the \$150 administrative fee plus Smart Start's \$145 installation fee. Smart Start Canada can also install a device on a motorcycle; the fee for a motorcycle install is \$200. Monthly monitoring costs range from \$85 to \$95 depending on the term length. When a driver completes the program, there is a \$50 device removal fee.

A driver referred to the IIP for a period of 1 year or longer may choose the Affordability Payment Plan. This plan allows for the initial installation cost of the ignition interlock device and the monthly user costs to be divided up by Smart Start and charged on a weekly basis to the driver's credit card. The weekly payments are divided into equal payments at 0% interest. Drivers currently receiving Income Assistance may be eligible for Smart Start Canada's No Barriers Financial Plan. Smart Start Canada offers a 50% reduction in its basic installation and monitoring fees for up to 5% of Program participants whose term in the Program is greater than one year. Steps on how to apply to the No Barriers Financial Assistance please can be found [here](#). Drivers who participate in these financial incentives are still required to pay the full program fee of \$150 at the time of their interlock device installation.

Drivers referred to the IIP for a period of less than 1 year are not eligible for these payment options.

### Where are the service locations?

For information about Smart Start service locations please contact Smart Start Canada toll free at 1-844-432-4776 or visit: <http://www.smartstartcanada.ca/>

### For more information . . .

Visit the RoadSafetyBC website at [www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc](http://www.gov.bc.ca/roadsafetybc)