

Ignition Interlock Device Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is an ignition interlock device?

An Ignition Interlock Device (IID) is a mechanism similar to a breathalyzer that is installed in a vehicle's dashboard. It is designed to prevent a driver from operating the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.

How does it work?

The driver must breathe into the device before starting the vehicle and if the analyzed result is higher than the programmed blood alcohol concentration, the vehicle will not start. At random times, the driver must breathe into the device again while operating the vehicle. This requirement ensures that the driver cannot have someone breathe into the device to help them start the vehicle and then drive away. If the analyzed result is higher than the programmed blood alcohol concentration, the device will warn the driver and then start an event such as an alarm, flashing lights or the horn until the vehicle is turned off. Each event is logged by the device and checked by officials.

Who has to have this device installed?

After completing all other driver license suspension requirements, the ignition interlock device restriction is required for drivers who are convicted of a second or subsequent offense for the following violations:

- a) driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs,
- b) driving with an unlawful alcohol concentration, or
- c) causing great bodily injury or death while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Can I refuse to have the device installed?

If you are subject to the ignition interlock device restriction, but choose not to have the device installed on your vehicle, your driver's license will remain suspended for three years.

I don't own a vehicle? Are there any other requirements I have to meet?

If you are subject to the ignition interlock device restriction, but you do not own a vehicle, you must certify that you will not drive any vehicle other than one owned by your employer and that you will not own a vehicle during the time the ignition interlock device restriction is required, SCDMV may waive the requirement for proof that an ignition interlock device has been installed. Your eligibility for the waiver is subject to periodic review by SCDMV and if it is determined that you operated a vehicle in violation of the restriction, your driver's license may be revoked.

I just moved to South Carolina from another state where I was subject to the ignition interlock device restriction. Do I have to have a device installed on my vehicle in South Carolina?

If you become a South Carolina resident while subject to an ignition interlock device restriction in another state, you can only obtain a South Carolina driver's license if you enroll in the ignition interlock device program in this state.

I have a medical condition that makes it difficult for me to breathe into the device. Can I be exempt from the program?

You may apply for a medical exemption if you have a pulmonary condition certified by a pulmonary physician. Before granting an exemption, SCDMV will require you to take the certification to an ignition interlock device vendor to determine if the device can be adjusted so that you may be able to properly operate the device. If the vendor determines that you cannot properly operate the device, a letter will be provided to you indicating that fact. You must provide the original certification from your physician and the letter from the vendor to SCDMV.

Who inspects the ignition interlock device once it is installed on my vehicle?

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole (PPP) will inspect each individual's ignition interlock device every 60 days and manage the point system for the device. If you violate the restriction requirements, you will receive points which may result in further action:

- a) Offenders receiving two points will have their Ignition Interlock restriction extended by two months.
- b) Offenders receiving three points will have their Ignition Interlock restriction extended by four months and must complete an Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program (ADSAP).
- c) Offenders receiving four or more points will have his or her driver's license suspended for one year and they must complete an Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program (ADSAP).

Who pays for use and installation of the ignition interlock device?

Individuals subject to the ignition interlock device restriction are required to assume all costs for the device.

- a) If an individual cannot afford the cost, he or she may submit an affidavit of indigence to the Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole (PPP).
- b) Persons found to be indigent by PPP may have the installation and use of the ignition interlock device paid for by the Interlock Device Fund, which is managed by PPP.

Will I have to have an ignition interlock device installed on the vehicle I drive for my employer?

If you are subject to the ignition interlock device restriction and required to operate a motor vehicle owned by your employer, you may operate your employer's vehicle without the installation of any ignition interlock device solely for the employer's business purposes.

Do I have to have an ignition interlock device installed on my motorcycle?

An ignition interlock device cannot be installed on a motorcycle. Individuals may not operate a motorcycle while subject to the ignition interlock device restriction.

How will I know when the ignition interlock device is no longer required?

The S.C. Department of Probation, Pardon and Parole will notify the S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles when you have completed the ignition interlock device program.