



# Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device

Québec's alcohol ignition interlock program aims to ensure the safety of all road users by monitoring drivers whose behaviour represents a road safety risk. An alcohol ignition interlock device prevents a vehicle from starting when it detects alcohol on the driver's breath.

# Terms and conditions of use

Any failure to comply with the terms and conditions of use of an onboard alcohol ignition interlock device will be transmitted in real time to the SAAQ for analysis. You must abide by the following terms and conditions of use at all times:

1. Respect the maintenance and data collection schedule established by the authorized supplier, Smart Start.
2. Follow the instructions on the alcohol ignition interlock device's screen.
3. Use the emergency mode only in the event of serious, force majeure,<sup>1</sup> by calling 1-844-282-8300 to receive a single-use access code.
4. Do not remove, modify or render unusable the alcohol ignition interlock device.<sup>2</sup>
5. Do not attempt to circumvent the alcohol ignition interlock device.
6. If the SAAQ requires you to add a camera to participate in the program:
  - do not in any way prevent photos of your face from being taken by the camera;
  - make sure you are always facing the camera when photos are taken.
7. Upon request, demonstrate to a peace officer that the device is in good working order.
8. Pay for any damage caused to the alcohol ignition interlock device.
9. Accept responsibility for the data collected by the alcohol ignition interlock device. That data is deemed to have been generated by your use of the device, unless you can prove otherwise.
10. Keep the maintenance and data collection reports produced by Smart Start and provide them to the SAAQ upon request.
11. Do not drive if you have consumed any amount of alcohol.

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1 Force majeure: a person's health or life is threatened or the vehicle must be moved by order of a peace officer.

2 You may only have the alcohol ignition interlock device removed in the following cases: ownership of the vehicle is transferred to someone else (sale, gift, end of lease, etc.); the vehicle is involved in an accident; the device is defective and is being replaced; or a new, approved model is being installed. In these cases, you must at all times comply with all terms and conditions of use and only operate road vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device approved by the SAAQ.

**If you are required to operate a vehicle equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device and you fail to abide by this requirement, you face the following penalties:**

- a three-month driver's licence suspension or the revocation of your licence;
- prosecution under the *Criminal Code*;
- a fine of \$1,500 to \$3,000;
- immediate seizure and impoundment of the vehicle you were driving for 30 or 90 days, depending on the situation.





To be authorized to operate a vehicle equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device, you must hold a **restricted licence** or a licence with **Condition X (mandatory or voluntary)**.



	RESTRICTED LICENCE	LICENCE WITH VOLUNTARY CONDITION X	LICENCE WITH MANDATORY CONDITION X
Who can apply for the program?	Drivers who have been convicted of an alcohol- or drug-related driving offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i> .	Drivers who wish to apply; for example, drivers whose alcohol- or drug-use habits represent a road safety risk.	Drivers who have been convicted of an alcohol- or drug-related driving offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i> and are required to only operate road vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device.
When should your application be filed?	<p>During the penalty period, once the absolute driving prohibition period has ended.</p> <div><b>IMPORTANT!</b> Before leaving Québec, find out if you are allowed to drive with a restricted licence in the jurisdiction where you plan to travel.</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- When a medical examination reveals an alcohol-use disorder, or when an assessment establishes that your relationship to alcohol or drugs is not compatible with the safe operation of a road vehicle.</li><li>- At any time, as a preventative measure, provided you do not have any active penalties on your driving record.</li></ul>	<p>At the end of the penalty period, once the conditions for obtaining a new licence have been met.</p> <p>At the end of the penalty period, for individuals required to only operate vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device for life.</p>

## Which licences can be issued with Condition X?

Probationary licences and regular driver's licences only.

## What steps are involved (licence and device)?

### To obtain your driver's licence from the SAAQ

1. Verify your eligibility for a restricted licence or a licence with Condition X by consulting your file via SAAQclic, or by calling us at 1-800-361-7620.
2. Schedule an appointment at an SAAQ service centre. You can do so while still in SAAQclic or on the phone with us immediately after confirming your eligibility. You can also do so by completing the online form at [saaq.gouv.qc.ca/rendez-vous](https://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/rendez-vous) (note that the booking tool is in French only).
3. Go to your SAAQ service centre appointment to request your licence and pay the related fees.

### To obtain your alcohol ignition interlock device from Smart Start

4. Make an appointment with the authorized supplier, Smart Start, on its website at [www.smartstartquebec.ca](https://www.smartstartquebec.ca) or by calling 1-844-282-8300.
5. Go to the Smart Start service centre to sign the rental agreement and have an alcohol ignition interlock device installed on all the vehicles (including motorcycles) you plan on operating.



## How does it work?

Once installed, the device measures your blood alcohol concentration before the engine starts and at preprogrammed intervals while you are driving. All measurements are recorded. Any failure to comply with the terms and conditions of use of the alcohol ignition interlock device will be transmitted in real time to the SAAQ for analysis.

You must have the device checked every 90 days at one of the authorized supplier's service centres. Smart Start will give you a device usage report that you must keep and send to the SAAQ upon request.

## What costs are involved?

Participants in the alcohol ignition interlock program must pay all costs related to:

- the driver's licence (restricted licence or licence with Condition X);
- the use of the alcohol ignition interlock device (installation, rental, inspection, removal etc.).

Additional fees may be charged; for example, for some vehicles, damage to the device, etc.

## On which vehicles can an alcohol ignition interlock device be installed?

All vehicles, including motorcycles, except mopeds, scooters and off-road vehicles.

Specifications for motorcycle installation must be taken into consideration. For more details, please contact Smart Start at 1-844-282-8300.

### NOTE:

- If your driver's licence or one or more of your classes of licence have not been valid for three years or more, you will have to pass the applicable SAAQ knowledge and road tests again before obtaining a new licence or adding a class of licence.
- In specific circumstances, participants may be required to have an onboard camera installed.



## For more information

### ONLINE

[saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://saaq.gouv.qc.ca)

### TELEPHONE

1-800-361-7620

### MAIL

Service de l'accompagnement des clients aux comportements à risque en sécurité routière

Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec  
Case postale 19500, succursale Terminus  
333, boulevard Jean-Lesage  
Québec (Québec) G1K 8J5



This is not a legal text.

For all legal questions, please refer to the *Highway Safety Code* and attendant regulations, as well as the *Criminal Code*.

Original text in French

**Société de l'assurance  
automobile**

**Québec**



Avec vous,  
au cœur de votre sécurité