

# Alcohol Ignition INTERLOCK DEVICE



Québec 



To be authorized to drive a vehicle equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device, you must hold a **restricted licence** or a licence with **Condition I or Condition X**.

## You can apply for this licence if...

### Restricted Licence

You have been convicted of an alcohol- or drug-related driving offence under the *Criminal Code*.

### Licence with Condition I

Your alcohol- or drug-use habits represent a road safety risk AND you file an application with the SAAQ to obtain a licence with Condition I. You must not have been diagnosed with a drug-use disorder.

You cannot obtain a licence with Condition I if you are required to only drive vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device for life.

### Licence with Condition X

You have been convicted of an alcohol- or drug-related driving offence under the *Criminal Code* AND are required to only drive road vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device.

## When must your application be filed?

During the penalty period, once the minimum absolute prohibition period has ended.

- At the end of the penalty period, while you are in the process of meeting the conditions for obtaining a new licence.
- When a medical examination reveals an alcohol-use disorder, or when a health assessment<sup>1</sup> establishes that your relationship to alcohol or drugs is not compatible with the safe operation of a road vehicle.
- At any moment, on a voluntary basis (you must not have any active penalties on your driving record).

At the end of the penalty period, once the conditions for obtaining a new licence have been met..

## Which licences can be issued with Condition I or X?

Probationary licences and regular driver's licences only.

## What must you do to obtain an alcohol ignition interlock device?

1. Contact the SAAQ to find out if you are eligible, by calling 1-800-561-2858.
2. Make an appointment with Smart Start-by calling 1-844-282-8300 or visiting its website at [smartstartcanada.ca/quebec/](http://smartstartcanada.ca/quebec/).
3. Bring a copy of the authorization letter you received from the SAAQ with you to your appointment and **sign the service agreement for leasing an alcohol ignition interlock device**.
4. Take a signed copy of the service agreement and the SAAQ authorization letter to an SAAQ service centre in order to **request your licence** and pay the related costs.
5. Once you obtain your licence, return to the authorized partner's service centre in order to have the **alcohol ignition interlock device installed**.

### Note:

- A licence that only authorizes its holder to drive a vehicle equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device cannot be used to operate a motorcycle, moped or scooter.
- If your driver's licence or one or more of your classes of licence expired 3 or more years ago, you will have to pass the knowledge and road tests again before obtaining a new licence or adding a class of licence.

## 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.

You must have the device checked every two months at one of the authorized partner's service centres. You will be given a report that you must keep and send to the SAAQ upon request.

## What costs are involved?

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

- the driver's licence (restricted licence, licence with Condition I, licence with Condition X);
- the installation, rental, periodic checks and removal of the alcohol ignition interlock device.

Additional fees may apply to some vehicles.

## What is an alcohol ignition interlock device?

An alcohol ignition interlock device is a device that prevents a vehicle from starting when it detects alcohol on the driver's breath.

### Terms and conditions of use

1. Do not drive if you have consumed alcohol, regardless of how much or how little you drank.
2. Respect the maintenance and data collection schedule.
3. Keep all reports and provide them to the SAAQ upon request.
4. Follow the instructions on the alcohol ignition interlock device's screen.
5. Use the emergency function only in the event of serious, unforeseen circumstances.
6. Do not remove, modify or render unusable the alcohol ignition interlock device<sup>1</sup>.
7. Do not attempt to circumvent the alcohol ignition interlock device.
8. Upon request, demonstrate to a peace officer that the device is in good working order.
9. Pay for any damage caused to the alcohol ignition interlock device.
10. 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.

**Driving with alcohol or drugs in your system, failing to comply with any of the terms and conditions of use, or driving a vehicle that is not equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device can lead to the following penalties:**

- suspension of your licence for 3 months, or 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 are driving for 30 or 90 days, depending on the situation.

<sup>1</sup> You may only have the alcohol ignition interlock device removed in the following cases: ownership of the vehicle is transferred (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, the participant must at all times comply with all terms and conditions of use and only drive road vehicles equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock device approved by the SAAQ.

## For more information

### ONLINE

saaq.gouv.qc.ca

### TELEPHONE

Québec area: **418-643-5506**

Elsewhere: **1-800-561-2858** (Québec, Canada, United States)

### MAIL

Service de l'évaluation médicale  
et du suivi du comportement

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**

