

Impaired driving convictions

Year	Total convictions	First offence	Second offence	Third or more offence
2013	297	169 (56.9%)	53 (17.8%)	75 (25.3%)
2012	327	189 (57.8%)	73 (22.3%)	65 (19.9%)
2011	373	225 (60.3%)	73 (19.6%)	75 (20.1%)
2010	424	269 (63.4%)	80 (18.9%)	75 (17.7%)

Ignition Interlock (first, second, third, and subsequent offences)

On February 23, 2013, the Ignition Interlock Program became a mandatory requirement after an impaired driving conviction.

Before starting the vehicle, a driver must blow into the device; if the recorded BAC is above the pre-set limit, the vehicle will not start. Once the vehicle is started, the engine will be turned off unless random breath samples that meet the prescribed BAC are provided at pre-set times.

Under current law, ignition interlock sentences are as follows: minimum of one year for first offence; minimum of two years for second offence; minimum of five years for third or more offence.

Under the proposed amendments, ignition interlock sentences would be as follows:

- Second offence
 - ▶ If BAC is 0.160 or below – Two years, followed by administrative probation for three years
 - ▶ If BAC is above 0.160 (twice the legal limit) or test is refused – Five years, then administrative prohibition for three years
- Third or more offence
 - ▶ 10 years
 - ▶ After five successful years of the 10-year sentence, the driver may apply for administrative probation and a specially coded licence plate.

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Administrative Probation (second, third, and subsequent offences)

Under the new *Highway Traffic Act* amendments, impaired driving offenders will receive three years of “administrative probation” after they complete their mandatory ignition interlock sentence (second offence), or after they are judged to have successfully completed five clean years of their mandatory 10-year sentence (third offence).

Administrative probation will appear on the driver’s licence as a red “R” on the front and the phrase “Zero Blood Alcohol Level” on the back, indicating to law enforcement that the driver is under zero tolerance and is not permitted to be behind the wheel with more than a 0.00 BAC.

Coded licence plate (third and subsequent offences)

Offenders with three or more convictions may apply for a specially coded licence plate, along with administrative probation, if they qualify to exit the ignition interlock program after five successful years of their 10-year sentence.

This plate will identify the vehicle to law enforcement and the registrar of motor vehicles as being registered to a repeat impaired driving offender. The licence plate number will carry a special sequence of letters or numbers that will not be readily identifiable to the public.