

 **SMART START**

NEW ZEALAND 

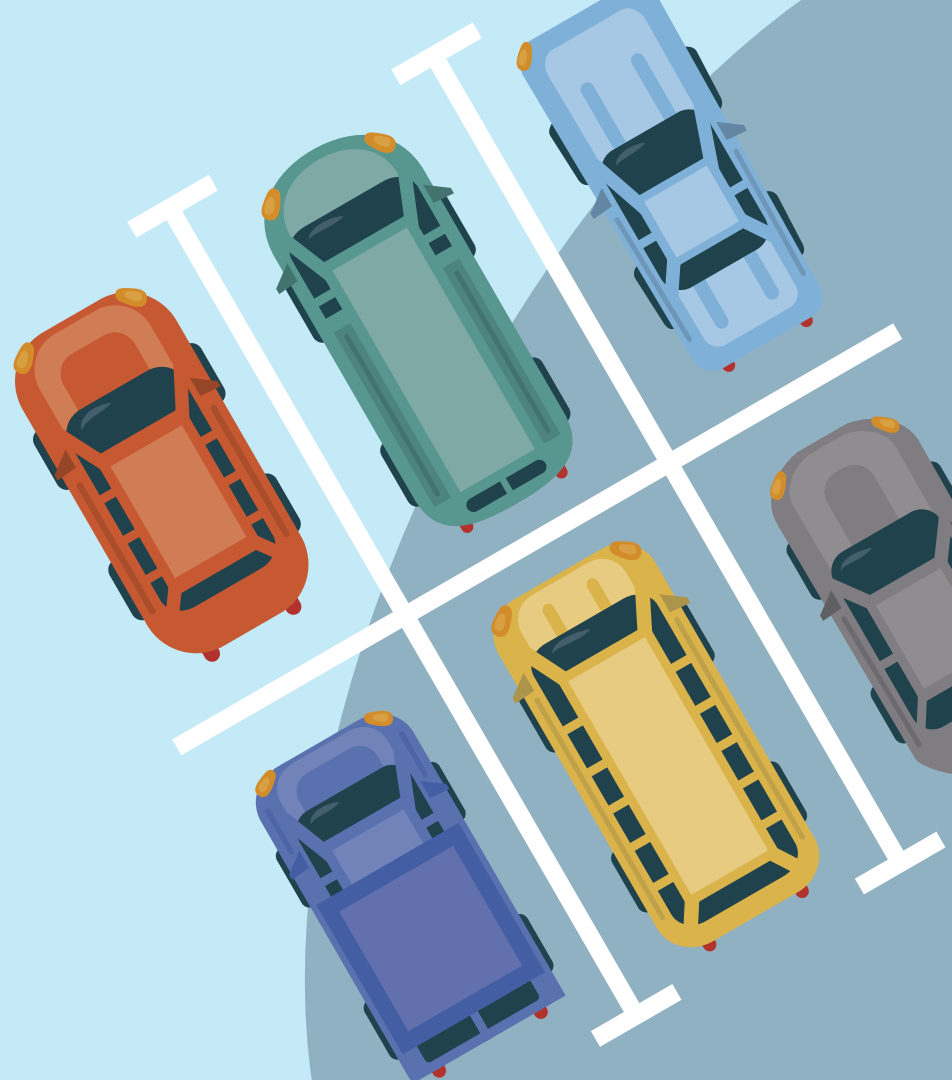
Smart Start Interlocks

Separating Drinking From Driving

In 2022 there were 371 road deaths.

178 (48%) of these fatalities involved alcohol/drugs as a contributing factor.

Interlocks prevent drink driving and help drive lasting behaviour change.



What is an alcohol interlock?

An alcohol interlock is a breathalyser installed to the ignition of a vehicle.

Interlocks prevent the vehicle from starting until the driver has passed a breath alcohol test.

Interlocks collect data which can be monitored for compliance.



Do interlocks work?

- >30,000 drink drive attempts prevented in 2022.
- >34,000 drink drive attempts prevented in 2023.

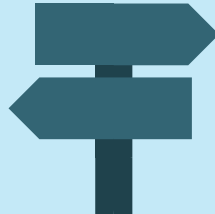
Preventing drink driving

>30,000 drink driving attempts prevented in NZ speaks for itself.



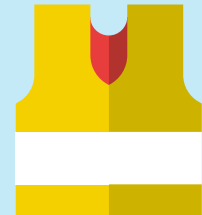
Reducing recidivism

Studies show that offenders who get an interlock installed are less likely to reoffend after the interlocks removal. A Ministry of Transport study in 2022 revealed that over a four-year period, people sentenced to an interlock were up to 33% less likely to reoffend for drink driving, and up to 40% less likely to reoffend for disqualified driving.



Providing a deterrent for drink drivers

When people are aware there is a high chance they will get an interlock if they're caught drink driving, they're less likely to get behind the wheel after drinking.



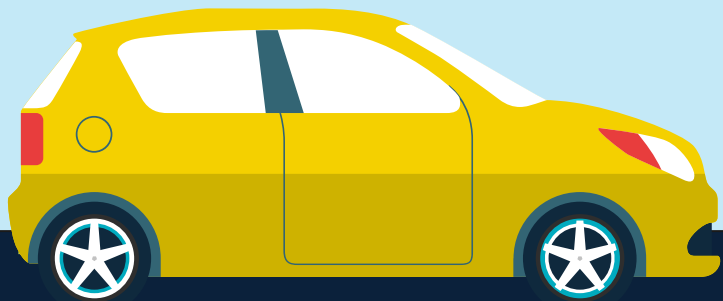
Current NZ Interlock Programme

NZs current interlock legislation was introduced in July 2018 following discretionary legislation initially introduced in 2013.

Interlocks are mandatory for people:

- a. Caught with a breath alcohol level more than $800\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (twice the criminal drink drive limit)
- b. Caught more than once inside 5 years with a breath alcohol level more than $400\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$

The current NZ drink drive limit is $250\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$.



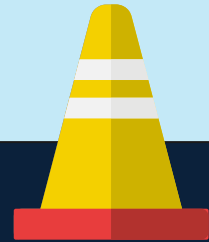
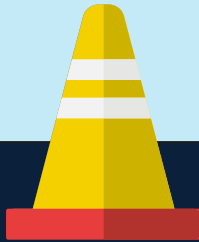
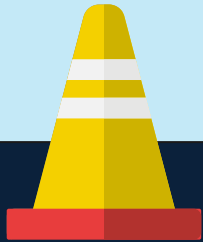
NZ Drink Drive Offenders in 2023

15,703 drink drive convictions

7,777 of those convictions were repeat offenders (people with at least one previous drink driving offence)

3,983 alcohol interlock orders issued

Only 25% of drink drive convictions received an interlock order.



What needs to be done?

Lower eligibility
from 800 μ g/L to
400 μ g/L

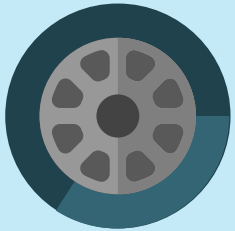
Remove the no-
vehicle barrier

Administrative, not
judicial

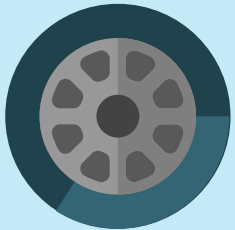
Require participants
to complete a full
programme

Extend the subsidy

Lower eligibility from 800µg/L to 400µg/L



Most convicted drink drivers are repeat drink drivers—they just haven't been caught before.



Only 50% of convicted repeat drink drivers will receive an alcohol interlock order.

Remove the no-vehicle barrier

The 'no-vehicle barrier' is an easily exploited loophole for people who want to avoid the interlock programme.



Require participants to complete a full programme

65AG Alcohol interlock licence requirements

- (1) An alcohol interlock licence replaces any licence held by a person.
- (2) An alcohol interlock licence requires a person holding it to drive only a motor vehicle or vehicles to which an alcohol interlock device is fitted.
- (3) A person may apply under [section 100A](#) to replace an alcohol interlock licence with a zero alcohol licence if—
 - (a) every motor vehicle the person has driven for 12 months (or more) had an alcohol interlock device fitted and operating; and

“they have had an interlock installed and operating for a minimum of 12 months”

Administrative, not judicial

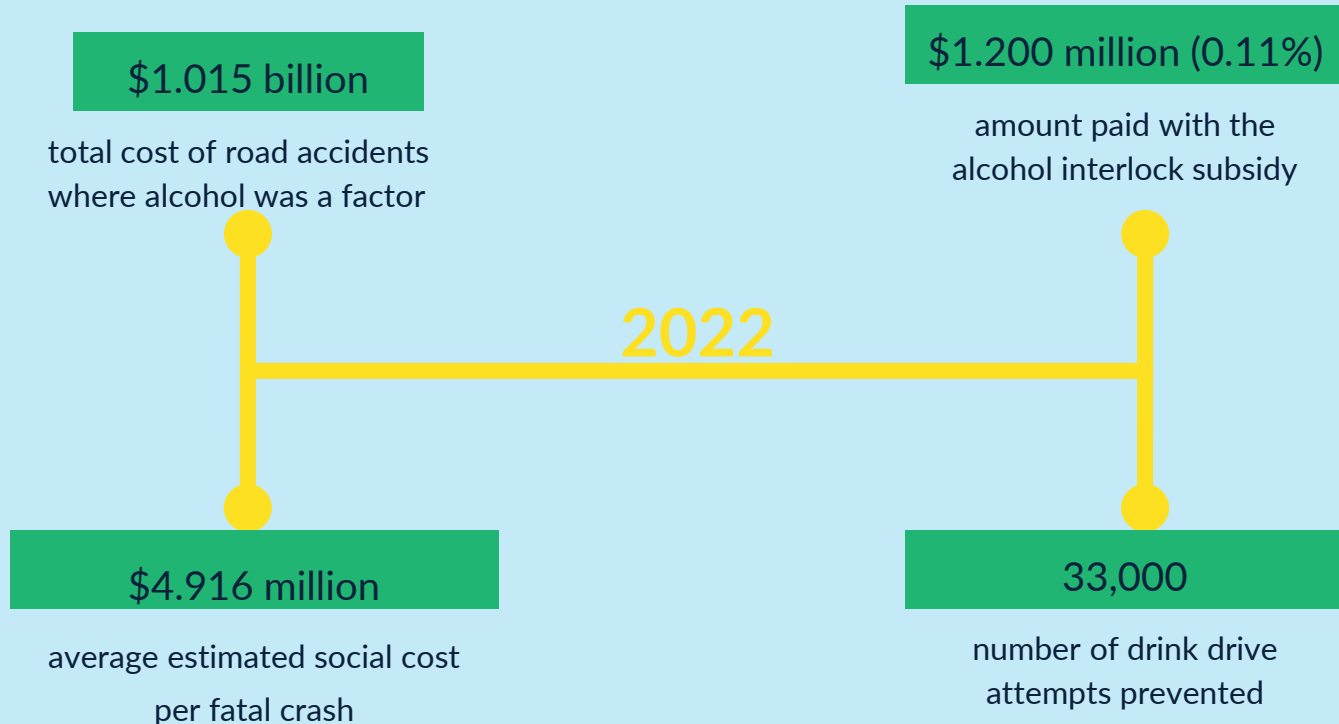
Why is a court case required for every drink driving case?

We should follow Victoria and make it administrative, with the option of a court case to challenge.



Extend the subsidy

Financial constraints shouldn't prevent individuals from installing an interlock.



Get in touch

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