



**ETSC Drink Driving Conference**  
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**Taking up the challenge for sober driving:**  
**ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS**

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## **European Standard EN 50436-2** (Alcohol interlocks – Test methods and performance requirements. Part 2: Instruments having a mouthpiece and measuring breath alcohol for general preventive use / 2007)

- “Device which provides in the blocking state an output signal which is intended for example to prevent the starting of a vehicle motor, and which can be brought into the unblocking state only after presenting and analysing a breath sample with an alcohol concentration below a limit value.”
- “NOTE! It normally consists of a handset and a control unit electrically connected to the vehicle.”
- Limit value most often at 0,10 mg/l ( $\approx 0,2 \text{ ‰}$ )

# The Finnish experience with alcohol interlocks

## **Act #1: "Act on the right to drive controlled by an alcohol interlock"**

- Interlock-monitored driving right implemented in July 2008 (first a trial from July 2005 for 3 years)
- Voluntary after a DUI offence (instead of a driving ban)
- Court decides the length (1–3 years)
- The driver pays all the expenses
- National code 111 on the driving licence

## **Act #2: "Act on the use of alcohol interlock in school and day care transportation"**

- Since August 2011 interlocks mandatory "if the transportation is organized by a municipality, municipal federation, school or institute as charter transport and support from a municipality or state is obtained"
- Interlocks installed in approx. 8000 taxis and busses

# The Finnish experience with alcohol interlocks

## **Act #3: "Act on approving the alcohol interlock for traffic"**

- All interlocks used in traffic need to be approved by TraFi
- European Standard EN 50436-1 or EN 50436-2
- Vehicle regulations (EMC)

## **Act #4: "Driving Licence Act"**

- Driving Licence Directive: "Driving licences shall not be issued to, or renewed for, applicants or drivers who are dependent on alcohol or unable to refrain from drinking and driving"
- As of 19 January 2013 doctors are able to "recommend" an interlock to a driver who would not obtain or maintain a driving licence otherwise → The police issues a driving licence with a national code 113 for the requirement to use an interlock

## Next Steps in Finland

- **Trafi Publications 1/2012:**

Study: "Adoption of the alcohol interlock and its effects in professional transport"

[http://www.trafi.fi/palvelut/julkaisut/2012\\_julkaisut](http://www.trafi.fi/palvelut/julkaisut/2012_julkaisut)

→ Will be published in English: Trafi Publications 5/2012

- **Publications of the Ministry of Transport and Communications 3/2012:**

Working group: "Imposing the alcolock as a condition for the right to drive for drink-driving offenders"

<http://www.lvm.fi/web/fi/julkaisu/-/view/3113034>



## DUI offenders

- Interlock is a chance to keep on driving safely (not a punishment!)
- Support the driver to take control of his/her alcohol use/abuse
- Support the driver to keep the device installed in the vehicle after the "offender program" is completed (with settings for voluntary use → no re-tests during the drive, no data-read-out)
- Plan how to use the data that is read out of the interlocks
  - In Finland mandatory data-read-out every 60 days → The interlock driving licence may be withdrawn for certain incidents (e.g. misuse and manipulating attempts)
  - The amount of "red" breath samples is not a reason to withdraw the licence. The Finnish idea: for traffic safety reasons the drivers are rather kept in the program.

## Quality of devices

- Ensure the minimum technical and performance requirements
- Ideally: An easy-to-use reset function (for commercial transports when the driver is changed, also for the police enforcement)

## Professional transports/drivers

- If the data is read out, discuss and agree (in companies) how the data may be used (consult the Data Protection Ombudsman)
- Professional drivers transporting school children: "Why interlocks are mandatory only for us?", "Why not for all professional drivers?"
- In school and day care transports: free start time (without a new breath sample) after turning off the vehicle engine
  - In Finland the bill: 20 min → the law: max. 45 min)



**Thank you!**

**Questions?  
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