

Alcohol and Driving – An Overview of the Situation in Austria

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Summary

- Development of DUI Legislation
 - BAC Limits
 - Sanctions and Measures
 - Enforcement
- Current Situation in Austria
- Statistics

Development of DUI Legislation – BAC Limits

- before 1960: no fixed BAC limit
- 1960: general BAC limit of 0.8‰
- 1992: BAC limit of **0.1‰** for **novice** drivers (probationary licence for 2 years)
- 1997: BAC limit of **0.1‰** for **professional** drivers (C, D)
- 1998: reduction of general BAC limit to **0.5‰**

Development of DUI Legislation – Sanctions and Measures

- 1977: voluntary driver rehabilitation
- 1990: possibility to recommend driver rehabilitation (not obligatory)
- 1997: accompanying measure obligatory in case of BAC of 1.2‰ and higher
- 2002: **driver rehabilitation** obligatory in case of BAC of 1.2‰ and higher
- 2005: **demerit point system**
- 2009: latest road safety package including higher fines, longer withdrawal periods, coaching

Development of DUI Legislation – Enforcement

- 1960: breath test as provisional evidence, in case of suspicion: public health officer / blood test
- 1986: breathalysers as sole evidence of alcoholisation possible
- 1988: **breathalysers** in operation nationwide
- 1994: **random breath testing**
- 2002: all persons involved in an injury road accident are tested for alcoholisation
- 2005: **quick-testing** alcohol breathalysers

Current Legal Situation

BAC	Fine	Measures
0.5‰ – 0.79‰	€ 300 to € 3,700	1 “demerit point” in principle: no licence withdrawal third offence within a time period of 2 years: licence withdrawal for at least 3 months driver rehabilitation in the framework of the demerit point system
0.8‰ – 1.19‰	€ 800 to € 3,700	licence withdrawal: 1 month (first time) coaching second time: licence withdrawal for at least 3 months second offence within a time period of 5 years: driver rehabilitation

Current Legal Situation

BAC	Fine	Measures
1.2‰ – 1.59‰	€ 1,200 to € 4,400	licence withdrawal for at least 4 months driver rehabilitation
1.6‰ or higher, refusal	€ 1,600 to € 5,900	licence withdrawal for at least 6 months driver rehabilitation driver assessment public health officer if indicated: medical opinion of a specialist

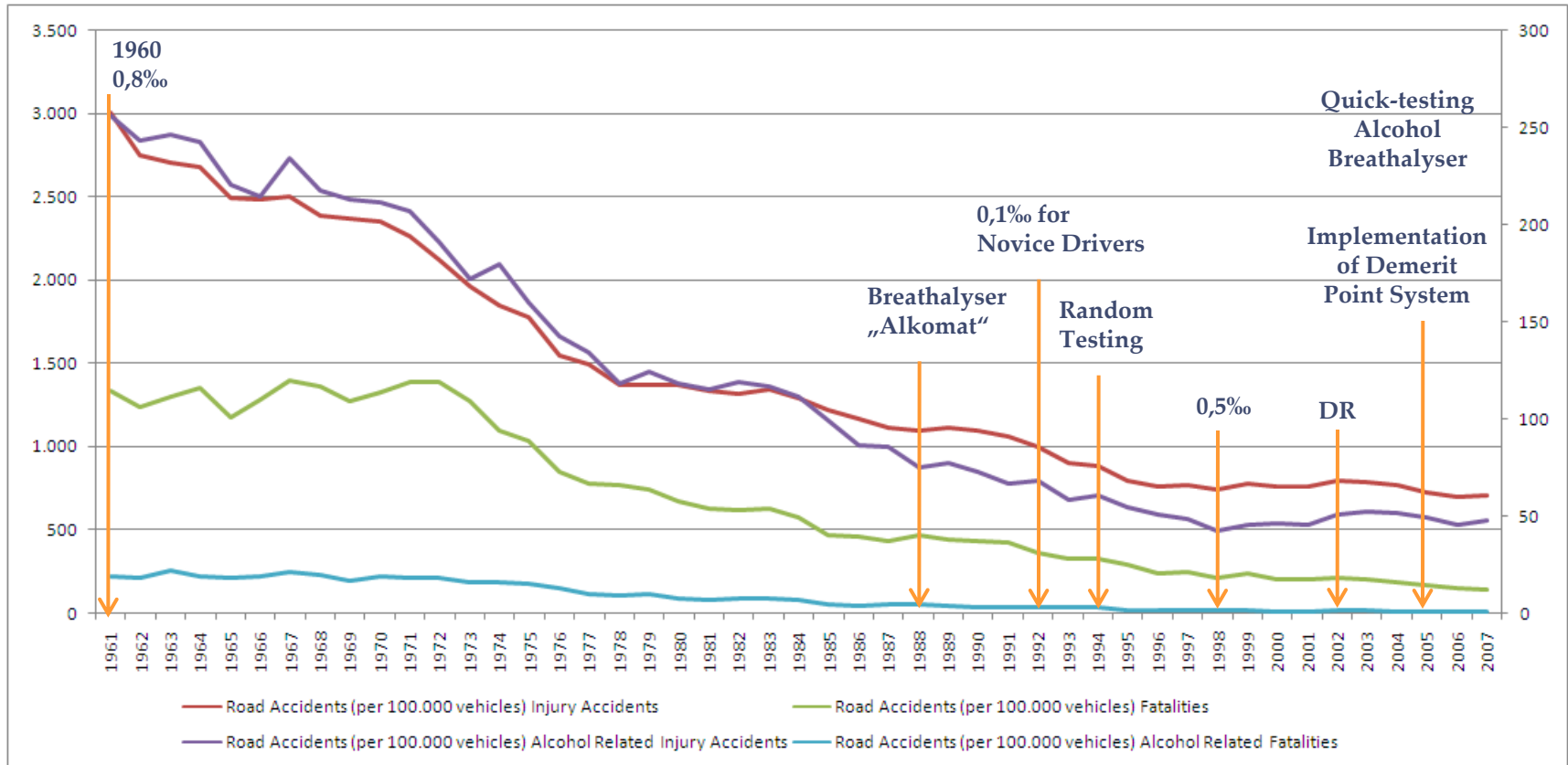
Current Legal Situation – Novice Drivers

BAC	Fine	Measures
0.1‰ – 0.49‰	none	driver rehabilitation and prolongation of probation period in principle: no licence withdrawal further offence during third prolongation period (= fourth offence): check of medical fitness to drive by opinion of public health officer and driver assessment, if indicated: licence withdrawal
0.5‰ or higher		always driver rehabilitation and prolongation of probation period, in addition: same sanctions / measures as for all drivers, provided that these sanctions / measures are severer

Current Legal Situation – Differences for Professional Drivers

BAC	Fine	Measures
0.1‰ – 0.49‰	C (> 7.5 t): € 36 to € 2,180 D: € 363 to € 2,180	1 “demerit point”
0.8‰ – 1.19‰		licence withdrawal for at least 3 months

Statistics



Statistics 2008

- Quick tests: 586,007
- Breathalyser tests: 138,481
- Persons detected DUI of alcohol: 42,281
- Road accidents:
 - Injury accidents: 39,173
 - Fatalities: 679
 - Injury accidents related to alcohol: 2,632
 - Fatalities related to alcohol: 52

Success of Policy Interventions

- Studies on effectiveness of driver rehabilitation:
 - Reduction of recidivism up to 50%
- Statistics on drivers detected with BAC of 0.8‰ or higher (after reduction of BAC level to 0.5‰):
 - 1997: 45,786
 - 1998: 34,508
- BUT in general: hard to tell what really reduced alcohol related accidents as mostly more than one sanction / measure is implemented / taken



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