



Alcolock in Finland





Statistics (Finland)

- 3,5 million driving licences / 5,4 million inhabitants
- 4,7 million vehicles in traffic / 5,1 million in the register
- Alcohol is involved in every fourth lethal road traffic accident
- Each year approx. 26 000 drivers driving under the influence of alcohol get caught
- In the traffic flow each 600. driver's BAC is over the legal limit (0,5 ‰)





Alcohol Interlock program for DUI offenders

- Since 1st July 2008 a permanent program
 - A trial was carried out on 1st July 2005 – 30th June 2008
- Voluntary program (instead of a driving ban)
- The court will decide the length of the program for each driver (1–3 years)
- Altogether about 1000 participants since 2005
- Has prevented approx. 15 000 times a driver from driving under the influence of alcohol on Finnish roads





Vehicles used in school and day care transportation

- In the 21st century over 20 DUI cases (in school transportation) have ended in the newspapers
- Recommendation to install alcohol interlocks since 1st August 2006
 - In 2008 only in 17 municipalities/cities alcohol interlocks installed in vehicles used in school transportation
- New law in the parliament: From 1st August 2011 alcohol interlocks would be mandatory in all vehicles used in school and day care transportation
- The requirement will concern altogether approx. 7000–10000 busses and taxis





Future plans

- The goal is to obligate the use of alcohol interlocks in
 - all transport services paid by public funds (incl. scheduled passenger traffic)
 - professional/commercial transport of goods
- An investigation of implementation and effects will be carried out in 2011. The obligation would be in force latest in 2014.
- A working group (in 2010–2011) to analyze possibilities for a new law, which would make alcohol interlocks mandatory for novice drivers after first DUI offence.





Legislation

- Supervised driving right with an alcolock driving licence is ordered at offenders request.
- Request should be addressed to the court or to the police.
- Court has no choice but to order a supervised driving right if the offender meets the requirements.





Continues..

- Court orders probation which is a minimum of 1 year and up to 3 years.
- The offender should comply with the obligations of the alcolock-program during the probation time.
- If not, the driving ban comes into force.





Vehicles

- Car
- Van
- Bus
- Truck
- Tractor
- Vehicle should be inspected





Requirements

- Certificate what proves that the alcolock device is installed.
- Medical certificate.
- Data processing every 60 days (in an authorized maintenance place).





Offences during the alcolock-program

- Supervised driving right is cancelled if;
- The offender commits a DUI-offence or is found guilty of an aggravated endangerment of road traffic safety.
- The offender fails to perform his/hers obligations.





Technical surveillance

- If the alcohol concentration is over 0.1 mg/l the alcolock should prevent car from starting.
- After failed initial test alcolock is locked for 5 minutes and after second failed test it's locked for 15 minutes until the test is passed.
- When the vehicle is started alcolock requires first test after 5 to 10 minutes and after this every 30 - 45 minutes.
- If the driver fails to perform the test while driving, or if the alcohol concentration is over the limit, the alarm system will be switched on.





Consequences

- Alcolock will lock the car within seven days when the maintenance interval (60 days) is exceeded.
- or within 5 days after the alarm system is turned on while driving.
- or within 5 days after starting the engine without a test.
- or within 5 days after the CPU power source is switched off.

