

Frequently Asked Questions

How long am I required to have an ignition interlock restriction?

DUI 1st Offense - minimum of one year
DUI 2nd Offense - minimum of two years
DUI 3rd Offense - minimum of six years
DUI 4th or Subsequent Offense - minimum of eight years

What if I own/drive multiple vehicles?

If your driver license has the Ignition Interlock Restriction (Code 16) the law requires that any vehicle you drive (including a company owned work vehicle) must be equipped with a functioning ignition interlock device. Drivers may elect to install an ignition interlock device on multiple vehicles.

What happens if I drive a vehicle that is not equipped with a functioning BAID?

If your driver license status is **“Revoked-Restricted”** you are subject to being arrested for **“Driving On A Revoked License - TCA 55-50-504”** and your vehicle is subject to seizure. If your driver license status has been reinstated and you still have the Ignition Interlock Restriction, you are subject to being charged with a violation of TCA 55-10-417 which is a Class A misdemeanor and you are subject to arrest and incarceration.

You may also be required to restart your entire ignition interlock usage period as required by TCA 55-10-425.

What if I have someone else blow into the BAID to start the vehicle for me to drive?

Both you and the person blowing in the BAID for you are in violation of TCA 55-10-417 which is a Class A misdemeanor and both parties are subject to arrest and incarceration.

You may also be required to restart your entire ignition interlock usage period as required by TCA 55-10-425.

What if my vehicle has become inoperable due to a crash or a mechanical issue?

You may request a toll of the consecutive three hundred sixty-five day period by submitting proof to the Ignition Interlock Program through your BAID manufacturer. If the toll period is approved it does not relieve you from only driving a vehicle equipped with a BAID while you possess a restricted license. Please visit our website to read TCA 55-10-425 in its entirety.

Contact A Representative Today

Ignition Interlock Program

Ignition Interlock Program
1150 Foster Avenue
Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: (615) 743-4960

Email: safety.interlock@tn.gov
Website: www.tn.gov/safety/ignitioninterlock



Driver License Information

Financial Responsibility Section
1150 Foster Avenue
Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: 866-903-7357

Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAID)

Program Requirements
TCA 55-10-417 & TCA 55-10-425



Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security,
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public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.08 per copy.

What is a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device?

- The Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) is a device that is connected to the vehicle's ignition system and prevents the vehicle from starting if it detects a breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) in a breath test sample submitted by the driver that is at or above a preset limit.
- In Tennessee if the BrAC test sample submitted by the driver is at or above a .020% level, the interlock device will not allow the vehicle to start.
- In Tennessee all BAIIDs must be equipped with a camera which captures a digital photo of the driver each time a BrAC test is requested or submitted. **It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure they are within view of the camera when a test is submitted.** Failure to do so is circumvention of the device and is a violation of TCA 55-10-417 which is a Class A misdemeanor.
- After the vehicle has been started, the BAIID will periodically require the driver to submit to a series of random retests. If the driver skips or fails a random retest with a BrAC sample at or above the .020% preset limit, the BAIID will record a violation and cause the vehicle's lights to flash and the horn to blow until the driver stops the vehicle and turns off the ignition.

79,530

*** DUI starts that were STOPPED by Ignition Interlock Devices in Tennessee from 2006-2020.**

* Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD. Data collected from the following ignition interlock manufacturers: ADS; Intoxalock; LMG; Smart Start; Sensolock; ACS; Draeger; Blow and Drive; Simple IID

** Mothers Against Drunk Driving, MADD.

How Do I Obtain a BAIID and a Restricted License?

STEP 1: Required Documents for Installation

If you have recently been convicted or plead guilty to a DUI offense, then you must obtain an Order for Restricted Driver License (ORDL) form signed by the judge indicating the reason for the Ignition Interlock Restricted License requirement. This form must be provided to the BAIID manufacturer before the device can be installed on your vehicle. If the revocation period for the DUI offense has already expired, then you should contact the Driver License Reinstatement Help Desk to request a "Notice of Revocation Letter" which must be provided to your BAIID manufacturer.

STEP 2: Installation of the BAIID

To select an approved BAIID manufacturer and find a service center location that is convenient for you, we encourage you to visit the Ignition Interlock Program's website:

www.tn.gov/safety/ignitioninterlock

STEP 3: Obtaining Your Restricted License

Once you have the BAIID installed on your vehicle, please allow forty-eight (48) hours for proof of your installation to be uploaded into the driver license database. **In order to receive credit for your ignition interlock device usage time you must apply for a driver license with the Ignition Interlock Device - Code 16 restriction. You must also maintain a valid license with the Ignition Interlock Device -Code 16 restriction until you receive the "Remove Interlock Restriction" letter from the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security.**

10,989

**** Attempts to drive drunk in Tennessee were STOPPED by ignition interlocks in 2020.**

Compliance Based Removal Requirements For DUI Offenses Occurring On or After January 1, 2023 (TCA 55-10-425)

- The BAIID must be installed and maintained in working order for the entire ignition interlock usage period or for the entire period of the driver license revocation, whichever is longer.
- A person who possesses a Code 16 Ignition Interlock restricted license is prohibited from:
 - ◇ **Removing the device at any time during the ignition interlock usage period;**
 - ◇ **Failing to return to a service center to have the device calibrated, inspected, and a download of the data and photos every thirty (30) days.**
 - ◇ **Tampering with or circumventing the ignition interlock device.**
- **Failure to comply with the above requirements will result in a restart of the entire required ignition interlock usage period.**
- During the final one hundred twenty (120) day period the device is required, the person shall not have any of the following violations:
 - ◇ **Attempting to start the vehicle with a BrAC test in excess of .020% unless a passing retest is provided by the same driver within ten (10) minutes, and it must be verified by a digital photo image of the driver;**
 - ◇ **Failing to take or skipping a rolling retest unless a digital photo verifies the vehicle was not occupied**
 - ◇ **Failing a rolling retest with a BrAC in excess of .020% unless a passing retest is provided by the same driver within ten (10) minutes and verified by a digital photo image of the driver;**
- If the person is found to have any of the above violations, the one hundred twenty (120) day period will restart on the date of the violation.
- For information regarding the requirements of the Compliance Based Removal Law, please visit our website by scanning the code below.

