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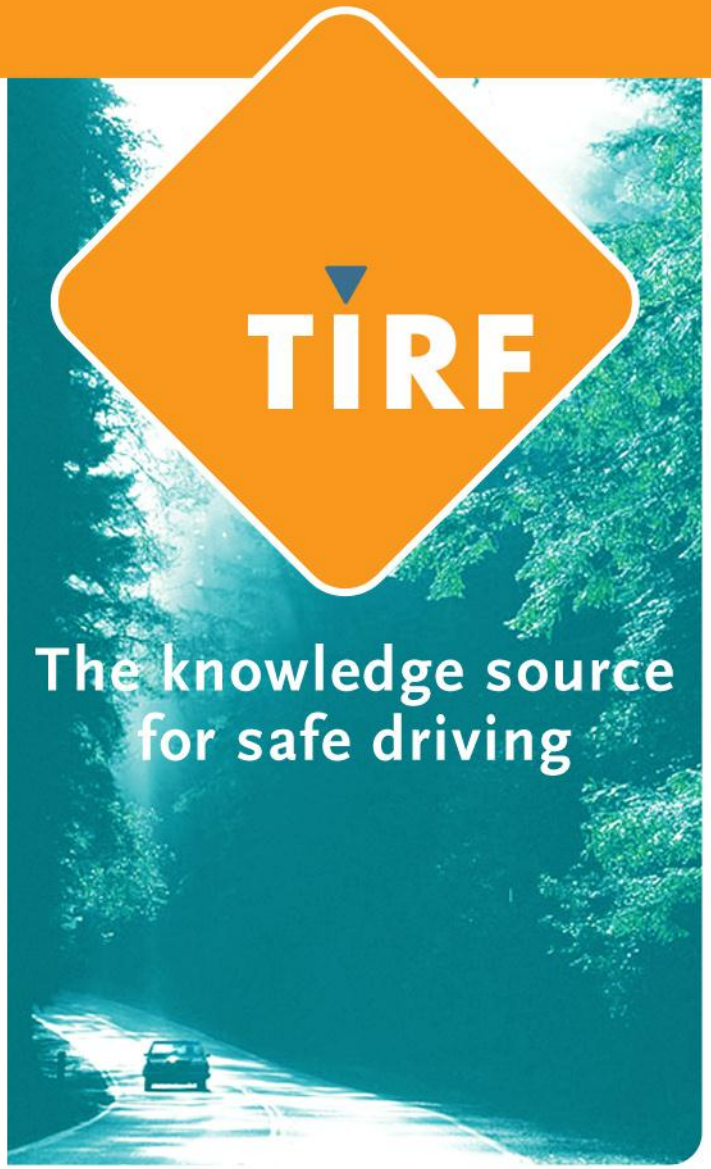


Worldwide Use of Alcohol Interlocks to Prevent Drunk Driving

Robyn Robertson, M.C.A.
President and CEO
Traffic Injury Research Foundation
Norwegian Parliament, Stortinget
Oslo, Norway, October 25th, 2012

About TIRF

- National, independent road safety research institute
- Registered charity
- Funding
- Staff
- Emphasis on road users
- Scope of activities

Overview

- Alcohol interlock programs around the world.
- Evolution of and growth in alcohol interlock programs.
- Common program features.
- Emerging trends.
- Conclusions.
- Resources.

Programs around the world

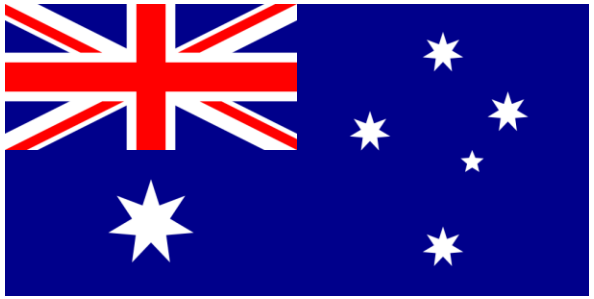
- **Canada**
  - Ten provinces and the Yukon have alcohol interlock programs for offenders.
  - National technical device standards.

- **United States**
  - Fifty states have offender law and/or program.
  - 17 states, 4 counties in CA are all offender; 12 states high-BAC (.15+).
  - National model specifications under review.

Programs around the world

- **Europe**
  - Seven countries have both commercial and offender programs.
  - United Kingdom, Austria, Ireland, Poland, Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Estonia, Greece have expressed interest and/or are using interlocks.
  - CENELEC has produced several standards.
- **Asia**
  - Japan is installing interlocks in busses.

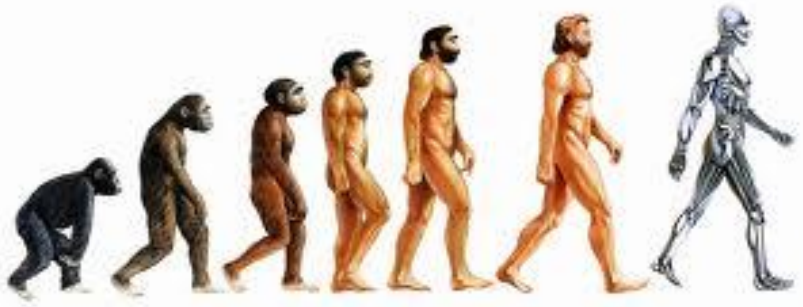
Programs around the world



- **Australia**
  - Seven states in Australia and Tasmania have offender programs or are pursuing implementation.
  - Australia has technical device standards.
- **New Zealand**
  - New Zealand launched program (Sept 2012).
- **Other jurisdictions**
  - Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Turkey, Peru, Russia have expressed interest.

Evolution and growth

- Tremendous growth in installations.
- Ongoing advances in research, technology.



- Programs are increasingly a core component in any drunk driving strategy.
- Program expansion to include more drivers.
- Increased program ownership and attention to operational practices by authorities.
- Increased educational efforts.

Common program features

- Multiple systems influence program design and management.
- Designated program authority with multiple partners.
- Device approval standards with testing, certification, some oversight.
- Data management and security.
- Monitoring with use of sanctions and reinforcements to shape behaviour.
- Use of screening and treatment as appropriate.

Emerging trends

- **Increased emphasis on education:**
  - For all program/agency staff.
  - Public education is essential to clarify goals and shape perceptions of program.
  - Investment in training and informational materials.

Emerging trends

- **Jurisdictional ownership:**
  - Emphasis on leadership.
  - Develop operational practices, workflow with clearly defined agency roles and responsibilities and communication strategies.
  - Increasing automation, management of data, protection of privacy.
  - Device approval, vendor oversight.

Emerging trends

- **Monitoring**
  - Consistent responses to violations at beginning of program are essential to increase overall compliance.
  - Identification of problem drivers who require ongoing attention.
  - Emphasis on long-term risk reduction.
- **Graduated sanctions/reinforcements:**
  - Responses to violations should be consistent and appropriate.
  - Increasing use of reinforcements.

Emerging trends

- **Inclusion of treatment:**
  - Use of screening/ assessment as needed.
  - Individualized treatment interventions.
- **Jurisdictional reciprocity:**
  - Cross-border travel common.
  - Management of interlock usage across jurisdictions is a concern.
  - Coalitions of program administrators a first step.
  - Enforcement community is a partner.

Emerging trends

- **Research:**
  - Program evaluations are essential to inform best practices.
  - Research to increase understanding of driver perceptions, public perceptions is needed to guide program development and educational strategies.
  - Research on cost-benefits of interlocks can inform government decisions and increase public support for programs.

Conclusions

- **Alcohol interlock programs for offenders, commercial vehicles, and personal transport vehicles continue to grow.**
- **Strong and ongoing political leadership is instrumental to ensure implementation of laws; development of operational practices.**
- **There is a growing emphasis on and demand for public health approaches and long-term risk reduction.**
- **Research and evaluation is encouraged to identify optimal program features.**

1 Overview

Introduction

Welcome to the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Curriculum for Practitioners!

This website contains a variety of instructional materials that can assist agencies and organizations in educating their staff and members about alcohol ignition interlocks.

An alcohol ignition interlock is a breath testing device that connects to the starter or ignition, or other on-board computer system of a vehicle. The device prevents the vehicle from starting if breath test results shows a breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) is found to exceed a certain pre-set limit (usually corresponding to blood alcohol concentration of .02%). This device also requires the driver to continue to pass repeated breath tests while the vehicle is in use to ensure that the driver remains sober. In addition, these programmable devices possess a range of anti-circumvention features. It should be noted that the alcohol interlock will never interfere with a running engine.

This curriculum allows instructors to tailor educational materials to meet their respective needs and deliver these materials at their convenience. It is designed to meet the educational needs of law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary, probation and parole officers, treatment and driver licensing professionals.

Most importantly, this curriculum is available to relevant practitioners at no cost.

Information relating to the following topics can be found at this site:

- international research findings from studies on alcohol interlocks;
- alcohol interlock technology including a range of visual materials;
- information about the implementation of alcohol interlocks as part of a program to control and monitor impaired driving offenders;
- legal concerns about the use of alcohol interlocks that may be raised in a criminal justice setting; and,
- information about contracting with vendors and service providers including a range of forms, contracts and other administrative materials.

This curriculum was developed with input from researchers and representatives of several national criminal justice organizations, treatment professionals, and licensing agencies.

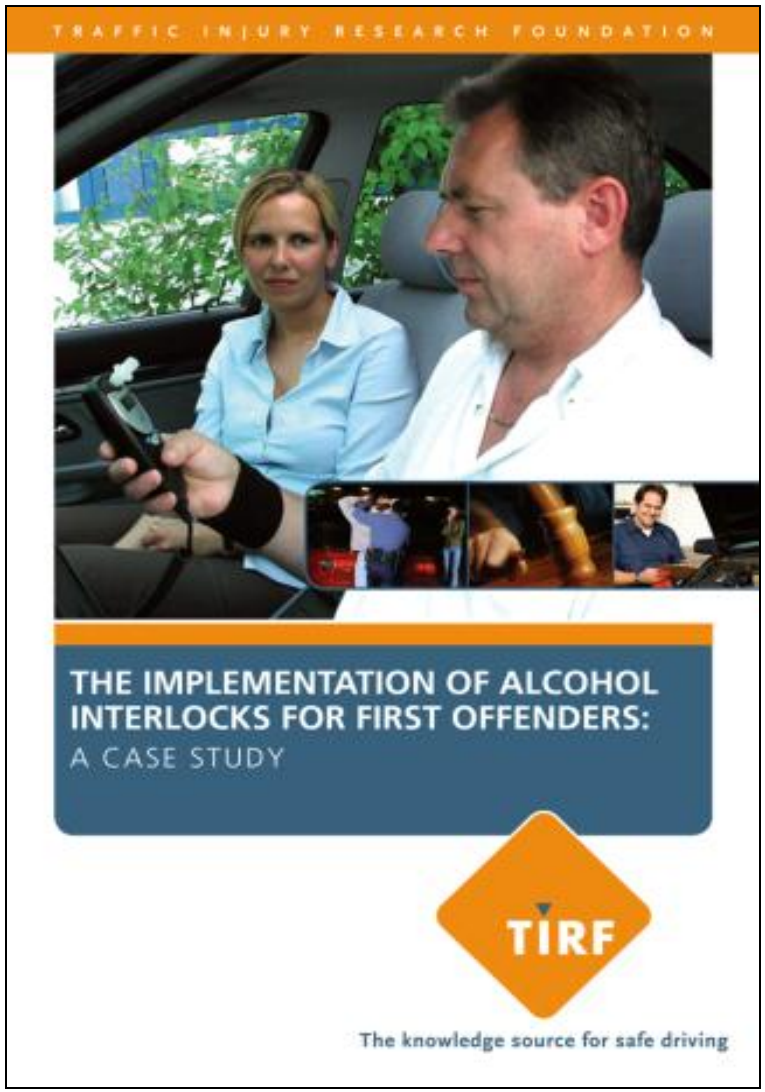
Materials contained in this site are structured in a question/answer format and allow practitioners to select the topics and information that are most relevant to their audience.

They include:

- clear and comprehensive written materials for instructors;
- concise summaries that allow instructors to create their own handouts;
- powerpoint slides that allow instructors to create their own presentations;
- visual materials including an instructional video; and,
- glossaries and reference materials.

TIRF ongoing initiatives

- **TIRF continues to provide technical assistance and training to U.S. jurisdictions.**
- **TIRF is adding four new modules to enhance its Alcohol Interlock Curriculum:**
  - testing and certification of devices
  - jurisdictional reciprocity
  - program audits to prepare for evaluation
  - commercial programs
- **These initiatives are made possible with funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (US).**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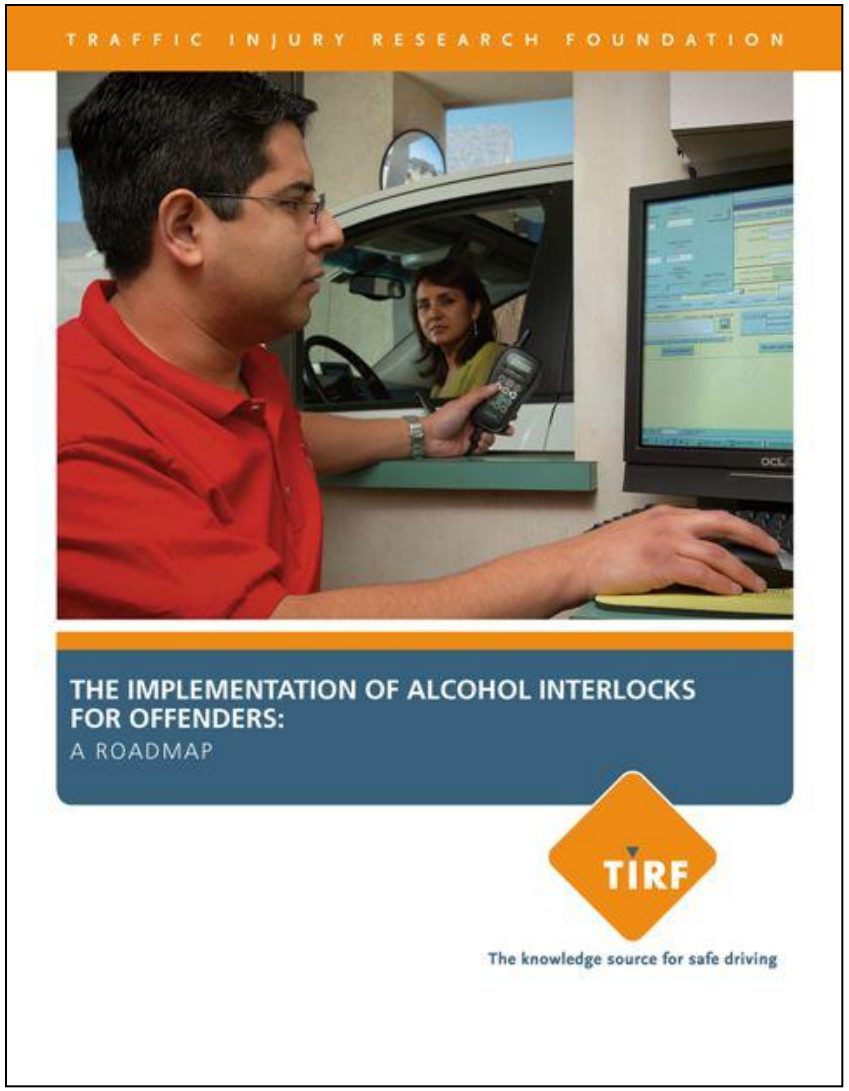
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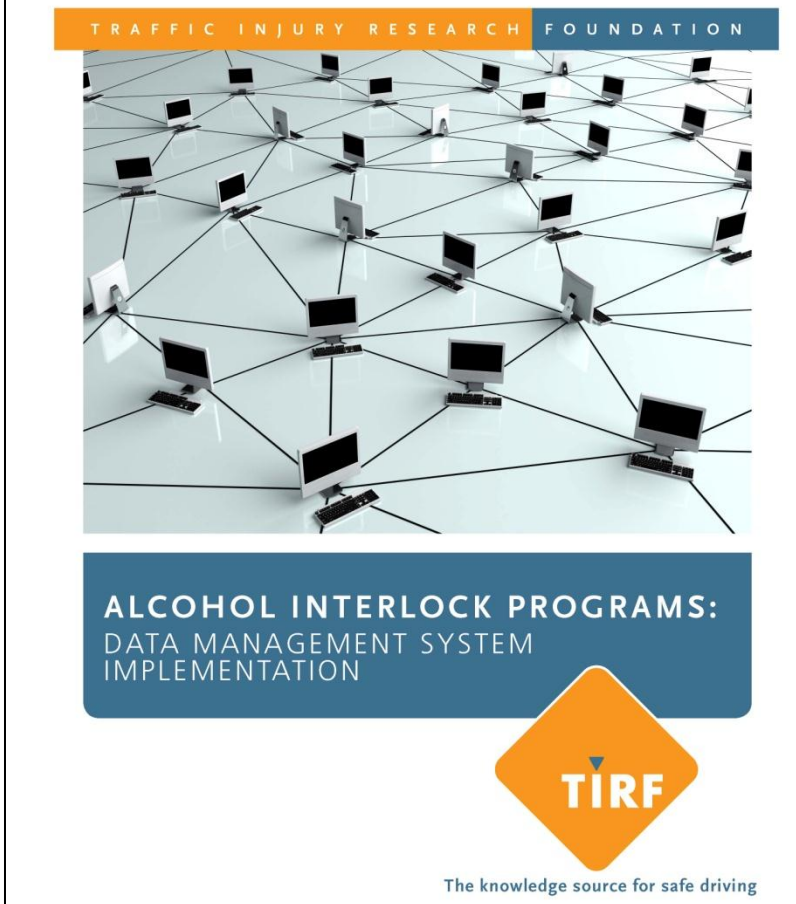
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