

# ALCOLOCK INFO

***A drink-driving offender may request for a right to drive a car fitted with an alcohol ignition interlock, alcolock, instead of being imposed an unconditional driving ban.***

## **What does a “conditional right to drive” mean?**

Offenders for drunken driving or aggravated drunken driving may regain their right to drive by having an alcolock installed in their car and committing to the terms of a conditional right to drive. The conditional right to drive does not change the punishment for drunken driving.

In order to receive an alcolock driving licence the driver must see a doctor or another health care professional to discuss the use of alcohol and drugs, their health impacts, and opportunities for rehabilitation. The driver must request a certificate stating the purpose of the visit and submit it to the police of his or her place of residence.

## **What is an alcolock?**

An alcolock is a device that prevents the car from starting, if the driver has a minimum of 0.1 mg alcohol per litre of exhaled air. The amount corresponds to approximately 0.2 ‰ alcohol in blood. During the drive the driver has to perform a random retest and blow into the alcolock. The retest does not stop a running engine but it will cause the vehicle horn to sound if the blowing is neglected or the alcohol level is above the legal limit.

All alcolock recordings and possible misuse of the device are stored in the central processing unit. Every two months the driver must take the vehicle to a manufacturer's representative that has been notified to the Finnish Vehicle Administration where the data will be read.

## **Who can obtain a conditional right to drive?**

A conditional right to drive may be granted to a drink-driving offender, who is permanently residing in Finland, and has not been imposed a driving ban for any other reasons. He or she must have a driving licence entitling to drive a passenger car, van, lorry, bus or a tractor.

## **How to obtain a conditional right to drive?**

A request for a conditional right to drive can be submitted to the investigating police or the court of law handling the drink-driving case. The request may also be submitted in writing. The police may grant a

conditional right to drive already before the court proceedings.

## **How long must the alcolock be used? What does it cost?**

The alcolock must be used for the time period ordered by the court, at least for a year and no more than three years. The costs for using the alcolock amount to approximately 110-160 euros a month. The costs are the responsibility of the driver.

## **Where to obtain an alcolock?**

Alcolocks are available from the manufacturers' representatives, whose contact information is below. Information on installation shops can also be found on the Vehicle Administration's web pages at [www.ake.fi](http://www.ake.fi). It is not necessary to buy an alcolock as it can also be rented for the required period.

After the installation the car needs to undergo a modification inspection. Certificates of the installation and of the modification inspection must be delivered to the police of the driver's place of residence.

## **What happens to the driving licence?**

If caught driving under the influence of alcohol, the police will take away the drink-driving offender's driving licence.

The conditional right to drive begins when the police issue the driver a special alcolock driving licence. The licence will provide the right to drive cars referred to in the vehicle register and fitted with alcolocks only.

## **May others drive a car with an alcolock?**

A car fitted with an alcolock may be driven by anyone. However, the person imposed a conditional right to drive is responsible for appropriate use of the alcolock. In case of misuse, his or her responsibility ends only if they can reliably prove that someone else had acted against the instructions.

## **What happens if the driver fails to comply with the conditions?**

The conditional right to drive will be revoked and the driving ban that was imposed conditional will be enforced. The decision will be made by a court of law.

## What will cause a revocation of a conditional right to drive?

A conditional right to drive will be revoked if the driver does not comply with the related conditions or if he or she is found guilty of drunken driving, aggravated drunken driving or aggravated endangering of traffic safety.

It is forbidden to circumvent or immobilise the alcolock. The conditional right to drive will also be revoked if the driver does not comply with the limitations related to the alcolock driving licence. For example, it is forbidden to drive a car not fitted with an alcolock. It is also forbidden to neglect blowing into the alcolock during the drive or to exceed the legal alcohol limit.

The driver is responsible for having the alcolock serviced at regular intervals and for following the manufacturer's instructions of use.

## Alcolock importers' contact information:

Liitin Oy  
tel. +358 9  
503 771

[www.liitin.fi](http://www.liitin.fi)

Strap Oy  
tel. +358 9 298  
6155

[www.strap.fi](http://www.strap.fi)

## Further information:

The Police  
[www.poliisi.fi](http://www.poliisi.fi)

Ministry of Transport and  
Communications  
[www.lvm.fi](http://www.lvm.fi)

## List of alcolock service and installation shops:

Finnish Vehicle  
Administration  
[www.ake.fi](http://www.ake.fi)

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