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Centre for Automotive Safety Research: TJ Bailey, VL Lindsay & J Royals

Best Practice in Alcohol Ignition Interlock Schemes

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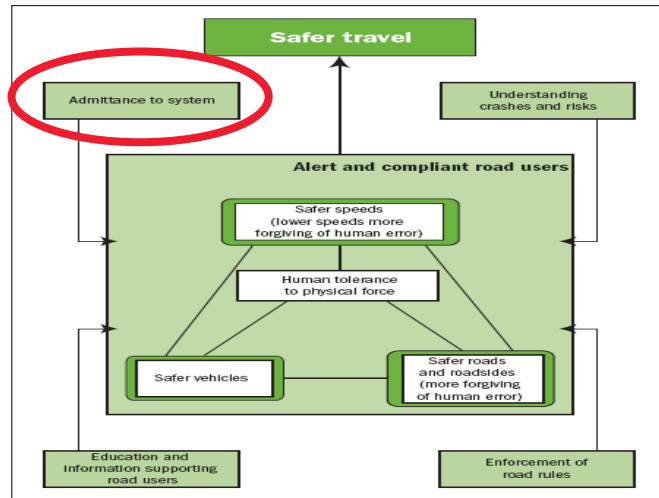
Alcohol continues to be a major factor in serious casualties, with more than a 1/4 of fatal crashes involving a driver over the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limit.

(National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, p. 87)

Random Breath Testing (RBT) does much in removing drivers with illegal BACs from the road system.

But should we do more to disallow drivers with illegal BACs from entering the system in the first place?

A Safe System: The Road Safety Discussion



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Technological developments now allow alcohol to be detected and measured through the skin via touchpads (alcohol excreted in perspiration). This technology is:

- inexpensive
- accurate and reliable
- quick to use
- unobtrusive.

(Grill & Fahlquist, 2012; Robertson & Vanlaar, 2012)

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Now, suppose this touchpad technology were required to be permanently fitted to all vehicles in Australia to prevent driving by someone with an illegal alcohol level...

Would this be a good idea?

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In a randomised telephone-based survey of 1000+ Americans, the responses to that hypothetical question were:

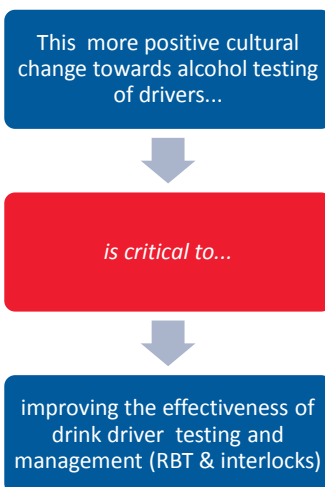
- 35.6% - 'a very good idea'
- 28.1% - 'a good idea'
- 19.1% - 'a bad idea'
- 11.2% - 'a very bad idea'
- 5.6% were undecided or didn't know
- 0.5% refused to answer.

Almost 2/3^{rds} of respondents positively viewed the notion of compulsory driver alcohol detection in all vehicles.

(McCart, Wells & Teoh, 2010)

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(Marques, 2009; Robertson, Holmes & Vanlaar, 2010)

Types of Interlock Schemes for Drink Drive Offenders



- court – imposed
- administrative order
- voluntary fitting

Increased participation and acceptance of interlocks is best achieved where schemes encompass both compulsory and voluntary components

(Voas, Tippetts, Fisher & Grosz, 2010)

Interlocks for the broader population

As Work Health & Safety quality controls, interlock use is increasingly being required by drivers of:

- buses (incl. school buses)
- taxis
- trucks.

(Robertson, Holmes & Vanlaar, 2011)

Volvo and Saab are pursuing interlock fitting as a standard new vehicle safety feature.

(Volvo News, 2012; Magnusson, Jakobsson & Hultman, 2011)

Requiring all new vehicles in Australia to be fitted with interlocks would reduce annual national road fatalities by 24% and serious injuries by 11%.

(Lahousse & Fildes, 2009)

If the community supported the widespread implementation of alcohol interlocks, then in the next 10 years drink driving could almost be eliminated.

(National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020, p. 89)

Such positive community support would be indicative of best practice in interlock programs for drink drive offenders

(Robertson, Holmes & Vanlaar, 2010)

Other interlock best practices for drink drive offenders include:

- Admitting offenders to the interlock program as soon as possible after conviction (Marques & Voas, 2010).
- **Notifying program participants of every violation recorded by the interlock device** (Zador, et al 2011).
- Tailoring duration of an interlock term to the driver's record of compliance with interlock use (based on a variety of measures) (Assailly & Cestac, 2013).
- **Integrating interlock programs within broader lifestyle alcohol management programs** (Chamberlain & Solomon, 2012).

Alcohol Ignition Interlock Schemes: Best Practice Review

The best practice review is now available at:

<http://casr.adelaide.edu.au/publications/>

The review has informed a broader, ongoing study of Recidivist Alcohol Offenders.

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