

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is an Ignition Interlock Device (IID)?**

An ignition interlock device (IID) or breath alcohol ignition interlock device (BAIID) will prevent a driver from starting a vehicle if the driver's resultant breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) is above a pre-set fail level.

### **How does the IID work?**

- Once the key is placed into the vehicle's ignition, and turned on to provide power to the vehicle, the device will be activated.
- The device will prompt the driver to provide a valid breath sample, by blowing into the device as instructed.
- If the BrAC analyzed in the sample is below the pre-set fail level, the engine can be started. If the BrAC is at or above the pre-set fail level, the violation will cause the ignition to be disabled and the vehicle will not start.
- At random times during vehicle operation, the IID will prompt the driver to provide another breath sample (also referred to as a "Rolling Retest"). The purpose of the Retest is to deter someone other than driver, or some other form of altered air, from providing the breath sample. If the breath sample for the retest is failed or missed, the IID will log the event, warn the driver and in some cases start up an alarm (e.g. lights flashing, horn honking, etc.) until the ignition is turned off, or a valid breath sample is provided.

### **What is the process of having the IID installed, monitored and removed?**

**Installation:** The customer will need to schedule an appointment with a service center for installation of the device. At the initial installation, the customer will be trained on how to use the device and the program requirements.

**Monitoring:** The IID will need be monitored regularly so that the IID data can be uploaded, and the device can be calibrated.

**Removal:** Once the order has been issued removing the IID restriction, the customer can then schedule a removal appointment.

### **How often will the IID need to be monitored?**

You are required to service a device within thirty (30) days after the initial installation and at least every sixty (60) days thereafter, unless otherwise specified by court order. Some manufacturers may require calibration every 30 days.

### **What is the cost of the device?**

Fees can be incurred for installation, monitoring, removal and other services. The device is leased to the customer for the duration of the program, and all costs for the device are inclusive in the monthly monitoring fee. On average, the installation ranges from \$0 to \$150, and monitoring ranges from \$60 to \$80 per month. New Mexico also offers Indigent assistance. If indigency is granted and provided that money is available in the Interlock Device Fund, the NMDOT Traffic Safety Bureau shall pay for one vehicle per offender, up to: \$50.00 for the cost of installation; \$30.00 monthly for verified active usage of the interlock device, and up to \$50.00 for the cost of removal. The offender is responsible for all other charges associated with the installation, servicing and removal of the ignition interlock device.

**How reliable is the IID?**

All IIDs must conform to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) standards as set forth in the Model Specifications for BAIIDs in the Federal Register, and other New Mexico specific requirements.

**Can the IIS disable the engine during operation?**

The IID cannot disable the engine if a retest is missed or failed. Remember, the IID can prevent your car from an initial start if your BrAC is above the legal limit, but it will not disable the engine.

**What if the engine stalls?**

The IID will allow the ignition to be restarted without providing a breath test for several minutes. This will allow the driver a sufficient amount of time to quickly restart the engine.

**What is a circumvention/tampering?**

Circumvention means an overt, conscious attempt to use a bogus or filtered breath sample or an electronic bypass mechanism to start a vehicle, or to push start or hot wire a vehicle, without taking and passing an initial breath test.

Tampering means an overt, conscious attempt to physically alter or disable an ignition interlock device, or disconnect it from its power source, or remove, alter or deface physical anti-tampering measures, so a driver can start the vehicle without taking and passing an initial breath test.