

North Carolina

Since December 2007, ignition interlocks are required for all repeat and first-time offenders with a blood alcohol concentration of .15 or greater for a period of at least one year. As of December 2017, there were 11,509 interlocks installed in North Carolina. Between 2006 to 2018, interlocks stopped 22,846 attempts to drive drunk, including 3,172 in 2018.

Why MADD does not call the law all-offender? We do not call the law all-offender as judges are not required to order the device for first-time offenders with a BAC of .08 to .14.

Ignition Interlock Law Overview and MADD Legislative Recommendations

How soon can an ignition interlock be installed?		Duration on ignition interlock	Legislative Recommendation
First offense .15 BAC or more	45 days after conviction	1 year	<i>Require interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers. Eliminate any waiting period before interlock installation.</i>
Second offense			
First refusal			
Compliance Based Removal?		No	
Legislative Recommendation	<i>Add a compliance based removal component to the law (a user must prove a certain period of sober driving before exiting the interlock program).</i>		
Day-for-Day Credit for early installation?		No	
Legislative Recommendation	<i>Allow for the use of ignition interlock after arrest and credit early installation of an interlock toward time ordered on an interlock upon conviction.</i>		
Do plea agreements or reductions in the original DUI charge include the requirement of an interlock?		No	
Legislative Recommendation	<i>Allow a first-time apprehended drunk driver who did not cause an injury or property damage crash, and successfully completes six continuous months on an ignition interlock and completes other court or department conditions to be granted a plea deal.</i>		
Indigent Program?		No.	
Legislative Recommendation	<i>Create an indigent program so low-income interlock users have access to these devices. This program should be paid for by interlock vendors or non-indigent interlock users.</i>		
Interlock user fees (not including leasing costs of the device)		None	