

Best Practices for Running an INTERLOCK PROGRAM

To better understand what separates an effective ignition interlock program from an ineffective one, let's first define what an ignition interlock is:

An ignition interlock is an in-car breath alcohol screening device that prevents a vehicle from starting if it detects a driver's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) over a pre-set limit. It is connected to a variety of sensors and wires within the car, but mainly to the engine's ignition system. Prior to starting the vehicle, the driver must blow a breath sample into the ignition interlock. Once the ignition interlock has determined the driver is below a pre-set BAC, the vehicle may be started. Ignition interlocks are often mandated by courts for persons convicted of a DUI, or in industrial applications such as the transportation of dangerous or valuable goods.

In ACS' experience, we have had the opportunity to manage many different styles of programs. We have found that even though the offender is charged and convicted within the judicial system, the best administered programs fall under the control of the driver licensing authority. The licensing authority, with the appropriate personnel and funding, has the ability to view and manage the driving record and impose immediate sanctions upon the offender for non-compliance. It is essential that they take this opportunity directly after the data downloads (a log of the use of the interlock unit that are uploaded to a central computer), whether electronically or physically, to effectively impose these additional sanctions. Licensing authorities follow regulation; judges introduce sentencing variations depending on how they view interlocks.

There are many factors that should be considered and included within an interlock program. The most critical of these is to ensure that the offender is provided with the opportunity to gain access and participate in an ignition interlock program immediately after conviction. A lengthy suspension only encourages the offender to drive outside the system; and even though there are penalties in most cases for this, many will take that chance.

It is important to include all levels of offenders within an ignition interlock program – 1st time and repeat offenders. Research has shown that first offenders are usually not offending for the first time – it is only the first time they have been caught. Every offender will benefit from a combination of an ignition interlock program with an element of treatment. Treatment should be mandatory and follow the entire interlock program and be re-visited again after completion.

It is also recommended that interlock programs not have fixed terms. Not all offenders correct their behaviour at one fixed rate. Each program should have a minimum duration but include the right of deferral for tampering or extension of the term for non-compliance for alcohol related readings. The offender should have to demonstrate both

through the data captured and the treatment counseling, comprehension of the act of drinking and driving.

Interlock programs should be truly mandatory. An ignition interlock license should only be granted when participating in a comprehensive interlock program. Judicial systems should remove the loop holes and not allow offenders to sit out the suspension since most are driving anyway.

DENISE CONNERTY DIRECTOR - INTERLOCK DIVISION

Myths & Facts ABOUT ALCOHOL & DRIVING

Myths and misconceptions about alcohol and its effects on safe driving are widespread. Knowing the truth could mean the difference between life and death.

Myth "Alcohol is a stimulant."

Fact Alcohol is a depressant. It acts on the central nervous system like an anesthetic to lower or depress the activity of the brain.

Myth "Drinking coffee sobers me up."

Fact Coffee cannot rid your system of alcohol. It just makes you a nervous, wide-awake drunk. Only time reverses the impairment.

Myth "I always stay away from the hard stuff."

Fact Alcohol is alcohol. One 12-ounce glass of beer has as much alcohol as a 1.5-ounce shot of whiskey or a 5-ounce glass of wine.

Myth "I am bigger so I can handle my liquor better than other people."

Fact Size is only one factor in how much you can drink. Metabolism, amount of rest and food intake all play a part in how you handle liquor. Impairment in motor reflexes and judgment can begin with the first drink.

Myth "Once I roll down my car window, I am okay to drive."

Fact No amount of fresh, chilly air can reverse impairment. You gain nothing by rolling down a window or turning on the air conditioner.

Myth "I just drive slower after drinking."

Fact Many people believe that by driving more slowly, they can compensate for being impaired. The truth is, drunk drivers are dangerous at any speed.

Myth "All I have to do is splash my face with cold water."

Fact Cold water or even a cold shower will not sober you up or make you a safer driver.

CHRIS WILSON DIRECTOR - BREATH TEST PRODUCTS

Courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation



ISO UPDATE
RUNNING AN INTERLOCK PROGRAM
MYTHS ABOUT ALCOHOL
PRODUCT PROTECTION PLAN
THE NEW ALERT J5

Ignition interlocks in your local showroom?

In the absence of a crystal ball, my executive team and I spend countless hours planning and forecasting industry trends in breath alcohol testing and ignition interlocks. Ignition interlocks are becoming increasingly commonplace for DUI offenders. But interlocks for the average driver? Not likely. Or so I thought.

In the past 12 months, I have witnessed an unprecedented surge in ignition interlock interest by major vehicle manufacturers – both foreign and domestic. ACS is at the cusp of becoming an OEM supplier to a major vehicle manufacturer with our ignition interlocks as an option in your local automobile showroom.

We may have dreamed about that a decade ago, but I never thought I

would be facilitating manufacturing meetings to ensure our production capabilities meet consumer demand as well as automotive manufacturing standards.

Now that the vehicle manufacturers are getting on board by planning interlock installations at the assembly line, there are a host of new considerations such as:

- Commercial standards
- Less intrusive sensing technologies
- Wireless technologies
- Standardization of connection ports
- Enhanced quality systems
- Warranty issues
- Product availability
- Global distribution
- Ongoing cost reduction strategies

Luckily, the annual Ignition Interlock Symposium is approaching quickly (October 22-25th in Beaver Creek, Colorado, USA). I anticipate a provocative discussion regarding these potential problems listed above and look forward to meeting with industry peers and attending the numerous seminars at the Symposium. I invite all our customers to attend and provide input about the future of ignition interlocks. While there may be unresolved "problems", these are good problems to have, and ones the interlock industry has worked diligently to achieve.

For more information about the symposium, visit:

www.ignitioninterlocksymposium.com

STEPHEN HALE PRESIDENT





BACK IN APRIL ACS RECEIVED GLOBAL RECOGNITION BY HAVING OUR QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REGISTERED TO ISO 9001:2000

The audit was carried out by the international registrar TÜV and involved a total of six and a half days of intensive auditing. The audit included a review of the quality policy manual, including our quality policy and quality objectives, the quality manual procedures, departmental working procedures, instructions, work area forms, flow charts and checklists. Once the documentation had been audited, the real test was to make sure the "written words" were being followed. For the registration audit, emphasis was placed on the Quality, Manufacturing, R&D Engineering, Sales, and Human Resource departments. The audit also included the procedures for interlock operations, software and IT control, and technical writing methods and capability. TÜV auditors were impressed with the work that had been done and the high standard of documentation. What was equally significant was the praise given to the ACS personnel that were called upon during the audit process and the willingness, dedication and passion shown.

At the conclusion of the audit, the ACS internal auditing team and the ACS management group were debriefed by the TÜV auditors. The auditor's results consisted of a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis and highlighted the strengths of the company, particularly the people at ACS and their desire to continually improve and succeed. TÜV concluded the audit by commenting that ACS had demonstrated one of the best implementation of the ISO 9001 standard they had seen. Coming from an internationally

renowned registrar that is a statement that ACS can be truly proud of!

Some companies would now sit back and enjoy the accolades - but not ACS. We are now in pursuit of the ISO environmental standard 14001:2004 and the acclaimed automotive standard TS 16949:2002.

The ISO 14001 environmental standard is one that all responsible companies should be working towards regardless of the requirements for registration. It addresses key environmental issues that the world is facing such as global warming and the need for a reduction in ozone depleting substances, the need to reduce harmful chemicals from entering our lakes, rivers and water supplies and the need to reduce the amount of waste entering landfills through improved recycling programs. ACS is committed to achieving registration to this standard by January 2007.

The TS 16949 standard is a requirement of suppliers to the automotive industry and involves additional requirements to the ISO 9001 Quality Management system and a much higher requirement for performance measurement, analysis, and improvement. ACS has an effective implementation plan in place that will involve extensive training in the TS standard core skills of failure mode and effect analysis, statistical process control, measurement system analysis and the use of process flows, control plans, and product part approval. The TS standard requires specific timelines for data gathering and performance achievements and the projected achievement of registration to this standard is November 2007.

These are exciting times for ACS and we are looking forward to building on our success in the coming weeks and months ahead.

GRAHAM GUY DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS

ALERT[®]J5 Professional Series



The New Millennium Evidential Breath Tester

Designing a breath testing platform for law enforcement is no easy task. It must meet DOT certification, operate reliably in a range of climates, offer print capabilities, and maintain accuracy over thousands of tests.

That's why the research team at ACS answered the challenge to create the new ALERT[®]J5 Breath Alcohol Tester. Our dedicated Engineering division has developed a product that will define the market in the years to come with regard to portable field testing solutions.

The ALERT J5 provides evidential accuracy and alcohol specificity, optional wireless print capability, auto sensing diagnostics and calibration functions, and a multiple test recall feature. These features separate the ALERT J5 from all competition at this price point.



The ALERT J5 design is predicated on new ISO quality guidelines and represents a new paradigm going forward in product quality and innovation.



New Product Protection Plan Added Value to Valued Customers

ACS now offers a new Product Protection Plan on all ALERT[®]J4X.ec, ALERT[®]J4X and ALERT[®]J5 breath alcohol testers sold in the US and Canada. The plan is more than a typical extended warranty offered by other manufacturers. What makes this plan more valuable is it includes all scheduled maintenance at no additional charge. Up to four calibrations per year for up to three years, free software upgrades, diagnostic checks and a lemon guarantee are just some of the benefits of the new plan.

Since you want your product returned quickly, ACS also guarantees your product will be serviced within 10 days, or you'll be offered a comparable product to use until your service is completed. Be sure to include the Product Protection Plan on your next breath alcohol tester purchase. For more information, please call Customer Service at (905) 670-2288 for complete details and prices.