Quebec

What is the pre-set breath alcohol concentration (BAC) level for an alcohol interlock device in Quebec?

The pre-set BAC level for the interlock device is 0.02%.

Do rehabilitative measures or treatment programs exist in Quebec and if so, what do they entail?

Rehabilitative measures do exist in Quebec as all offenders are required to undergo an assessment. The assessment results determine whether or not first offenders will be mandatory participants in the interlock program. A more comprehensive assessment must be completed by all repeat offenders to determine whether or not their alcohol consumption levels are too excessive to safely operate a motor vehicle.

Quebec also has a driver education program in place that is administered by the Societe de l’Assurance Automobile du Quebec (SAAQ) called Alcofrein (this program is separate from the interlock program). Participation in the program is a requirement of licence reinstatement following a first conviction. The program aims to raise awareness and prevent future impaired driving by reminding the participant of the legal, social, and personal consequences of impaired driving; explaining the effects of alcohol and other intoxicants on the body; and dispelling the false assumptions held by many about alcohol consumption. The session lasts for 3 hours and the $150 (Canadian) fee must be paid by the offender.

Are addicts eligible to participate in the alcohol interlock program in Quebec? If so, is heightened attention paid to addicts?

Yes, addicts are eligible to be participants in Quebec’s interlock program. Additional measures are taken for these individuals who suffer from alcohol dependence as they will receive additional treatment and will be monitored more closely than offenders who are not found to be alcohol dependent.

When was the alcohol interlock program implemented in Quebec?

The interlock program was implemented in Quebec in 1997.

What type of alcohol interlock program exists in Quebec?

Quebec has an administrative-based program for offenders that is run through the SAAQ.

Have any recidivism studies been conducted in Quebec?

A study done by Vezina in 20021 that examined both first and repeat offenders using an interlock group and a control group comprised of suspended drivers found reductions in

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recidivism for those on the interlock. The percentage reduction in recidivism while installed for first offenders was 80% and the percentage change in recidivism after the interlock was removed was a 37% increase. The percentage reduction in recidivism while installed for repeat offenders was 66% and the percentage change in recidivism after the interlock was removed was a 93% increase.

**What are the consequences for failing to take a running retest?**

Only significant events are reported to the SAAQ. These events include use of the emergency override, failure to report for service, failed or missed retest, circumvention, and tampering. The offender may be removed from the program for demonstrating continued non-compliance, but this is rare.

**What are the consequences for failing a running retest?**

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**Is indigent funding available in Quebec?**

There is no indigent funding available in Quebec.

**Has Quebec utilized any strategies to decrease the costs associated with running the alcohol interlock program?**

No cost saving strategies have been utilized at this time.