

Alcohol Ignition Interlock ("Alcolock") as an Effective Tool to Prevent Drink Driving



ŠUCHA, M.

Department of Psychology, Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Citation: Šucha, M. (2012). Alcohol ignition interlocks „Alcolock“ – účinný nástroj prevence řízení pod vlivem alkoholu. *Adiktologie*, (12)2, 152–157.

SUMMARY: *Alcolock is a system that immobilises a vehicle when a driver is impaired. Before starting the engine, the driver is required to breathe into a mouthpiece on the Alcolock device. If alcohol is detected in the air breathed out, the starter becomes blocked. A driver convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol can choose from two options – either a conventional sanction, including a risk of their driving licence being suspended and a prison sentence, or Alcolock. Following the consent of an official public authority (such as a public prosecutor), the device is installed into a vehicle for a period of six months or more at the driver's expense. The system, the installation, and inclusion in the programme cost approximately CZK 20,000–150,000 (prices vary dramatically between countries). After the expiry of a period as determined (six months or more), providing that the driver adheres to all the rules as prescribed, the court (or another authority) decides that the Alcolock device can be removed. The USA, Canada, Australia, and some European countries, including Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Spain, and Norway, possess the greatest experience in the use of Alcolock. The foreign studies show that the introduction of a programme involving the use of Alcolock has had a positive effect on repeat drink drivers in terms of a reduction in their future re-offending.*

KEY WORDS: ALCOLOCK – ALCOHOL – DRIVING – PREVENTION – DUID

Submitted: 22 / OCTOBER / 2011

Accepted: 12 / APRIL / 2012

Address for correspondence: Matúš Šucha, PhD. / matus.sucha@upol.cz / Department of Psychology, Philosophical Faculty of Palacký University, Olomouc, Křížkovského 10, 771 80 Olomouc, Czech Republic