

# ALCOLOCK-CONTROLLED RIGHT TO DRIVE

***Someone suspected of drink-driving under the influence of alcohol can, instead of facing an unconditional driving ban, ask for a controlled right to drive, whereby he/she may drive a vehicle equipped with an alcohol ignition interlock (alcolock).***

## **What does controlled right to drive mean?**

Someone suspected of drink-driving under the influence of alcohol or of serious drink-driving can recover his/her right to drive by installing an alcolock in his/her vehicle. The granting of a controlled right to drive does not affect the punishment issued for drink-driving.

## **What is an alcolock?**

An alcolock is a device, which prevents a vehicle from being started, if the driver has at least 0.1 mg of alcohol in a litre of exhaled air. This corresponds to a blood alcohol level of about 0.2 per mille.

The alcolock also requires blowing on random occasions whilst driving. It will not shut down a running engine, but the vehicle's horn will sound, if the blowing does not take place within a set time, or if the reading exceeds the permitted alcohol content level.

The alcolock registers all user information and possible infringements in the memory of its CPU. Every 60 days, the person being monitored must take his/her vehicle to an agent authorised by the manufacturer (and whom the Finnish Transport Safety Agency has been notified of) to have the user information downloaded.

## **Who may be granted a controlled right to drive?**

A controlled right to drive may be granted to anyone living permanently in Finland, who has been found guilty of drink-driving under the influence of alcohol, and who is not subject to a driving ban for any other reason. The person must have the right to drive a passenger car, van, lorry, bus or tractor. The alcolock may be installed in one or more vehicles used by the person being monitored.

## **What should be done to obtain a controlled right to drive?**

A controlled right to drive may be requested from the police or from the court, no later than when the drink-driving case is being dealt with in court. The request may also be made in writing. The police may grant a con-

trolled right to drive even before the case goes to court.

Before being granted an alcolock driving licence, the person being monitored must visit a doctor or other healthcare professional to discuss the use of intoxicants, their effect on health and possibilities for treating the use of intoxicants.

The person being monitored must ask for a certificate of the visit, showing the purpose of the visit. This certificate must be taken to the police station in the person's locality when he/she submits his/her driving licence application. Attachments required with the driving licence application are two photographs, a certificate of alcolock installation and part I of the vehicle's registration certificate, showing its modification inspection. When the alcolock driving licence application is submitted, the police will charge a fee.

## **How long must the alcolock be kept? What does it cost?**

The court will impose a conditional driving ban. The court will also set a trial period, the length of which is at least one year and no more than three years.

The alcolock must always be kept throughout the trial period, i.e. at least one year irrespective of the length of the conditional driving ban. Use of the alcolock costs between €110 and €160 per month. There is no need to buy the alcolock, it only needs to be rented during the period of the controlled right to drive. All costs are borne by the person being monitored.

## **Where can an alcolock be obtained?**

Information about alcolocks can be requested from the manufacturers' representatives, whose contact information is attached. Information about where an alcolock can be installed is also available on the website of the Finnish Transport Safety Agency.

After the alcolock has been installed, the vehicle must go for a modification inspection. This certificate of installation and modification inspection must be taken to the police station in the person's locality when he/she submits his/her driving licence application.

## **What happens to the driving licence?**

When a driver is charged with drink-driving, the police impose a temporary driving ban on him/her and confiscate his/her driving licence.

The controlled right to drive begins when the police give the alcolock driving licence to the person being monitored. The police may

grant an alcolock driving licence before the drink-driving case has been dealt with in court. The alcolock driving licence entitles the driver to drive only vehicles that have been fitted with an alcolock, and about which the person has notified the police for entry on the Vehicle and Driver Data Register.

### **May others drive a vehicle fitted with an alcolock?**

Other people may drive a vehicle fitted with an alcolock. The person being monitored is, however, responsible for its use in accordance with the instructions.

### **What happens if there is a failure in the controlled right to drive?**

The controlled right to drive is cancelled and the concurrent conditional driving ban enters into force. The court will decide on this.

### **What results in the cancellation of a controlled right to drive?**

A controlled right to drive is cancelled if the person being monitored violates the restrictions concerning the controlled right to drive or neglects his/her obligation to it. The person being monitored may therefore not drive any vehicle other than one fitted with an alcolock. Furthermore, he/she should also take the vehicle at regular intervals to an authorised agent, where the user information will be downloaded. The right to drive is cancelled if he/she is guilty of serious dangerous driving, drink-driving or serious drink-driving. The controlled right to drive is also cancelled if the person being monitored requests its cancellation.

### **Contact information for alcolock importers:**

Dräger Suomi Oy  
tel. +358 (0)207 119 600  
[www.draeger.com/FI/fi](http://www.draeger.com/FI/fi)

Suomen Alkolukko Oy  
tel. +358 (0)457 3435 254  
[www.suomenalkolukko.fi](http://www.suomenalkolukko.fi)

### **Further information:**

Police  
[www.poliisi.fi](http://www.poliisi.fi)

Ministry of Transport and Communications  
[www.lvm.fi](http://www.lvm.fi)

Finnish Transport Safety Agency  
[www.trafi.fi](http://www.trafi.fi)

### **List of alcolock installation and service companies:**

Finnish Transport Safety Agency  
[www.ake.fi/AKE/AKEKorjaamot/Korjaamot.aspx?kohde=6](http://www.ake.fi/AKE/AKEKorjaamot/Korjaamot.aspx?kohde=6)

### **STAGES OF ALCOLOCK-CONTROLLED RIGHT TO DRIVE:**

#### **Person caught drink-driving.**

The police immediately impose a temporary driving ban on him/her and confiscate his/her driving licence.



**A request for a controlled right to drive** to the police or to the court, no later than when the drink-driving case is being dealt with in court.



**The decision on a controlled right to drive** by the court or, before that, by the police.



**Installation of alcolock and modification inspection** of the vehicle.



**The certificates** of alcolock installation and modification inspection and of the visit to a doctor or other healthcare professional are submitted to the police when submitting the alcolock driving licence application.



The person being monitored receives the **alcolock driving licence** from the police. The controlled right to drive begins.



The **user information** in the alcolock is **downloaded** every 60 days.



Once the conditional driving ban trial period is over: **The alcolock may be removed** from the vehicle. Then the vehicle must undergo a **modification inspection and the alcolock driving licence must be returned** to the police. The police will return the previous driving licence.

Police  
Finnish Transport Safety Agency  
Ministry of Transport and Communications