

Indefinite Licence Suspension Program

The Program

British Columbians have demanded that the roads be kept safe from impaired and dangerous drivers, and have no tolerance for criminal driving.

Since August 29, 1997, persons criminally convicted of specific motor vehicle related offences automatically have their driver's licence, or their right to apply for a driver's licence suspended for a minimum of one year. Persons with previous convictions face longer licence suspensions. Drivers do not have a right to appeal a licence suspension.

Licence Suspensions

For a first offence, the licence suspension lasts for one year. If the driver had a previous conviction within 10 years, the suspension will last for three years. If a driver has three or more convictions they will lose their driver's licence indefinitely.

Licence Reinstatement

Drivers convicted of an alcohol-related criminal driving offence occurring on or after June 15, 2005, must complete the Responsible Driver Program, a remedial program for drinking drivers, before they can apply to get their driver's licence back. .

Licence suspensions of one or three years will be extended indefinitely if the driver does not complete the program.

Drivers whose licences are suspended indefinitely must wait a minimum of five years before they can reapply for a driver's licence. They must complete the Responsible Driver Program and be found fit by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles to reapply for a driver's licence.

Some offenders will be required to drive ignition interlock-equipped vehicles for a period of time as a condition of re-licensing. Mandatory ignition interlock terms will apply to all alcohol-related criminal driving offences occurring on or after February 1, 2009. If the convictions are for non-alcohol related incidents, the Superintendent may require other remedial training courses.

Driving While Suspended

Persons convicted of Driving While Suspended are subject to a \$500 fine and to possible jail time for a first offence; 14 days in jail for a second offence. Any vehicle driven by a suspended driver is subject to a 60-day impoundment for a first offence and 90 days for a second offence.

For more information . . .

- visit the Office of Superintendent of Motor Vehicles website at www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv
- visit the ICBC website at www.icbc.com for information on driver licensing.