



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IIDs

Q&A: HEALTH RELATED TOPICS

Q: Are there any provisions in the law to modify an IID to accommodate medical conditions?

A: No, the legislature did not incorporate any provisions for exempting individuals with medical or other conditions from a mandatory ignition interlock order. All 50 states have ignition interlock programs and only five (California, Florida, North Carolina, Oregon, and South Carolina) have medical exemption provisions. An offender who asserts a medical condition precludes them from operating an ignition interlock device may be subject to DMV's medical evaluation process.

Q: Can the IID be made more user-friendly for a hearing-impaired offender?

A: Service centers may be able to install the handset so that the display and indicator lights are more easily seen. Some can also install a light on the dash for additional assistance. Contact the manufacturer's customer service department assistance.

Q: Other states allow a person with medical conditions to change device settings— why doesn't Wisconsin?

A: State rules require the IID to record any attempt to tamper, circumvent or bypass the device. While many companies rely on either changing the breath direction or combining the flow with a hum tone, one company relies on a variety of sensors to verify the breath sample originated from a human. The devices from companies that rely on physical means to prevent circumvention would not be approved without these features.

Offenders can install any approved device in their vehicle(s), including the one that relies on sensors to detect circumvention attempts.

Q: Can the IID be made more user-friendly for an offender that uses hand controls to operate a vehicle?

A: The offender will have to communicate this information to the manufacturer's customer service department when establishing an account. The service center will work to locate the handset within reach while driving. It will likely take additional practice to become accustomed to operation of the IID, particularly providing rolling retest samples in a timely manner. The device cannot be altered, nor can the retest feature be disabled as an accommodation.

Q: Why can't the service center change the device to require a smaller sample or eliminate the hum or change in breath flow direction?

A: All IIDs approved for use in Wisconsin must meet specifications established by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and WisDOT, including a minimum 1.5-liter breath volume. Each device was testing using these criteria and changing that would adversely affect performance.

Testing also verified that each device's anti-circumvention technique, whether changing breath flow direction or humming while exhaling was effective. If these features were turned off, the IID might be circumvented, and it will no longer meet WisDOT approval requirements.



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Q: I have a medical condition that makes providing breath samples difficult- what are my options?

A: There are no provisions in state law to exempt an offender with a medical condition from an IID order. However, there are three options that one can pursue when providing a breath sample is challenging:

- Practice starting the vehicle while parked in a driveway or vacant parking lot. You may also seek additional training from the service center or by watching online content.
- If you are unable to provide an acceptable sample, you can change to a different ignition interlock device. Call your device's customer service department for assistance. You should plan to have the old device removed and the new one installed on the same day, if possible. Also, remember that you cannot legally operate a vehicle that does not have an IID, so you will need someone else to drive your vehicle to the installation appointment.
- State law requires that all drivers meet minimum physical standards to be eligible for a driver license. If an offender asserts that they are incapable of providing successful breath samples, they may be required to comply with the medical evaluation requirements detailed in [ch. Trans 112, Wisconsin Administrative Code](#). This requires a medical examination, paid for by the offender, and may include behind-the-wheel testing by DMV.