

Interlock rules to come with impaired laws

Legislation. First phase of new laws will come into effect July 1



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Drivers convicted under Alberta's incoming impaired-driving legislation could be forced to deal with the repercussions for years.

That's because the province announced as part of a rollout of the new laws, which many members of the legal community have deemed the toughest in Canada, guilty drivers will

be forced to partake in an interlock program.

Interlock devices require a driver to provide a clean breath sample through a dashboard device before gaining the ability to turn the ignition.

"The interlock device in other jurisdictions has been a proven way to change behaviours," Alberta Transportation Minister Ric McIver said Tuesday.

Mandatory interlock use will be required for a year following a first conviction, three years following a second and five years following a third. Drivers involved with the program will fork out approximately \$1,300 annually to use

the devices as well.

This all comes on top of indefinite licence suspensions for those who provide a blood-alcohol sample over .08 and three-day vehicle seizures for .05 blood-alcohol violations.

Calgarian Akash Brar believes the new interlock requirement is a good move. His brother, 20-year-old Arsh Brar, was killed in a collision involving an allegedly impaired driver in January.

"It's a safer system," Brar said. "With Checkstops, it's not only the people in one area, this would cover everyone."

More information about the new legislation is available at knowthelimits.ca.