

Here's a summary of the new Drunk Driving Law, effective July 1, 2010 put out by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

There are four main changes to existing law, including:

A fourth offense Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) will be a felony if it occurs within five years of an earlier offense.

Ignition interlocks devices (IIDs) will be required for repeat offenders and first-time offenders at or above a 0.15 blood alcohol level.

A greater emphasis will be placed on treatment for drunk drivers, helping reduce repeat offenses.

Increases first offense OWI to a misdemeanor if a child under 16 is in the vehicle.

Ignition interlock devices (IIDs)

Ignition Interlock Devices (IIDs) will be mandatory for the following convictions:

ALL repeat OWIs

ALL refusals

ALL 1st offense OWI with an alcohol concentration of 0.15 or higher

IIDs are required for every vehicle owned by or registered to the offender, unless the vehicle is specifically exempted by the court.

IIDs must be ordered for a minimum of one year:

For operating privilege, restriction begins when offender is issued an occupational license or reinstates operating privilege (cannot "wait out" IID anymore).

For vehicles, courts may order the IID restriction to begin immediately.

Failure to install, removal, disconnection, tampering or circumvention violations result in a six-month extension of IID.

Establishes a Prohibitive Alcohol Concentration (PAC) of more than 0.02 for persons subject to an IID order for the duration of the IID order.

More information regarding the installation of ignition interlock devices (IIDs) is also available.

If you have questions:

Impact on driver license revocation, reinstatement and occupational license

The driver license revocation period is extended by the number of days to which a person is sentenced to jail or imprisonment. For example, if a 12 month license revocation is imposed, and 5 days in jail, a revocation of 370 days will result.

The minimum waiting period for occupational license eligibility is reduced to 45 days, for 2nd / subsequent OWIs.

If no occupational license is issued, proof of IID installation is required for all vehicles owned and registered, before DMV can reinstate the offender's driver license (cannot "wait out" IID).

The reinstatement fee for alcohol related offenses increases from \$60 to \$200.