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## Introduction:

The Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues Ignition Interlock Restricted Driver Licenses (RDL's) to eligible alcohol-related DUI, and Refusal to Consent to a Breath Test, offenders. An RDL will allow offenders to operate non-commercial vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device.

Please read the FAQ's carefully, and in their entirety, to determine if you are indeed eligible for an RDL; and to inform you what your requirements, responsibilities and commitments will be upon obtaining an RDL.

Prior to being issued an RDL, you will be required to sign an Ignition Interlock Participation Agreement, certifying that you fully understand you are entering into an agreement with the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles, for which you agree you will abide by the Vermont Ignition Interlock Laws, and the Ignition Interlock Program Rules.

## What is an RDL/IID?

### What is an Ignition Interlock Device?

An Ignition Interlock Device, referred to as an "IID", is an after-market device which is installed in a vehicle. The IID is connected to the starter or ignition, or other on-board computer system of a vehicle. The device prevents a driver from operating the vehicle if the driver has been drinking. Before starting the vehicle, a driver must blow into the device; if the driver's BAC is at or over a pre-set limit, 0.02 in Vermont, the IID will not allow the vehicle to start. Once the vehicle is started, at random times during the operation of the vehicle, the device will prompt the driver to provide another breath sample, referred to as "random retests". If the breath sample is not provided, or if the breath sample is at or exceeds a BAC of 0.02, the IID will log the event as a "failure", and will then signal the vehicle to begin flashing the lights and sounding the horn. This will continue until the vehicle is turned off, or a clean breath sample has been provided.

### What is an Ignition Interlock Device Restricted Driver's License?

An Ignition Interlock Device Restricted License, referred to as an "RDL", allows you to drive non-commercial vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device, while your Vermont license is suspended or revoked for an alcohol-related driving under the influence offense. You are granted a conditional reinstatement ahead of your normal eligibility date if you participate in the Ignition Interlock Program. If granted an RDL, you must adhere to all of the terms and requirements associated with an RDL; failing to do so will result in an extension of your IID requirements. See Violations.

## Obtaining an RDL:

### How and where do I apply for an RDL?

Application for an RDL must be made by contacting the Department, by phone, at (802)828-2061. We will review your driving record to determine if you are eligible to apply for an RDL. We will then send you a packet of information regarding your eligibility; this can include a list of reinstatement/eligibility

requirements, an RDL Application, list of IID manufacturers, etc. It is very important that you contact this Department prior to visiting any office to assure that all requirements have been met.

### How much does it cost to get an RDL?

The cost for an RDL can vary depending on a person's circumstances. For other costs please contact our RDL Unit at (802)828-2061.

### Am I eligible for an RDL?

- You must be under suspension for an alcohol driving offense in Vermont
- If the offense involved a refusal to take a breath test, the following waiting periods must be served:
  - 30 days for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense
  - 90 days for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense
  - One year for 3<sup>rd</sup> or subsequent offenses
- For applicants **under 21** who are suspended under 23 V.S.A. §1216 there is no waiting period. You may apply for an RDL once the suspension has been issued.

### Do I have to take any exams?

If your license was revoked, or if your license has been expired 3 or more years, you will be required to take the eye, knowledge and driving exams prior to obtaining an RDL. You may contact our RDL Unit at (802)828-2061 for further information.

**🚨 Note:** The vehicle used for the driving exam must be equipped with a camera-equipped IID. See Obtaining and Installation of an Ignition Interlock Device.

### Is there a fee for taking the exams?<sup>1</sup>

Yes, all exam fees are applicable. The fees are as follows:

- Vision Exam: No fee
- Knowledge Exam: \$32.00
- Driving Exam: \$19.00

**🚨 Note:** You will be required to pay the \$125.00 RDL fee at the time you take the exams. When you appear for the exams, you will need a total of \$176.00 (\$125+\$32+\$19) to obtain an RDL. If you have an Enhanced Driver's License (EDL), you will need an additional \$30.00. All paperwork must be completed and IID device must be installed.

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<sup>1</sup> Fees are subject to change

## What happens if I fail any of the exams?

### Vision Exam:

If the screening determines that your vision does not meet the required standards of 20/40, you will be referred to an eye doctor of your choice at your expense. The eye doctor will complete an evaluation to determine if any restrictions should be placed on your driving privilege.

### Knowledge Exam:

The knowledge exam has 20 questions. You must answer at least 16 questions correctly to pass the test. If you fail the exam, you must wait at least one day before taking another one.

### Driving Exam:

The driving exam will not be given until you have passed the eye and knowledge exams. If you fail the driving exam, an RDL will be issued; however, you will be restricted to operating a vehicle only when accompanied by a licensed individual over the age of 25 years old.

**Note:** *You will be required to pay the RDL fee even if you fail the driving exam.*

## RDL Eligibility:

You are not eligible for an RDL if any of the following apply:

- You are currently under suspension for driving while under the influence of drugs
- You currently hold a Learner's Permit
- You currently hold a Junior Operator's License
- You are under suspension for a reason other than a driving under the influence conviction

## If I am eligible, are there any other requirements?

Yes. You must also do the following:

- Pay the Reinstatement Fee
- Provide proof of Financial Responsibility (SR-22 Certificate)
- Provide proof of installation of an approved IID. When you have the IID installed, have the installer complete a *Certification of Ignition Interlock Device Installation, VL-82*.

## Removing an Ignition Interlock Device:

### What if I voluntarily remove the IID from my vehicle before I am eligible to have it removed?

If you remove the IID from your vehicle before you are eligible we will receive notification from the IID installer/manufacture, and you will be suspended for the remaining term of your original suspension. A new suspension with a 10-day lead time will be mailed to you. The lead time and any Departmental processing time will not be counted towards your suspension.

### What happens if I sell my vehicle?

Prior to selling the vehicle you must have the IID removed by the installer and then installed in your new vehicle. You will also need to have the installer complete a Certification of Ignition Interlock Device Installation, VL-82, and return it to this Department.

### What if my vehicle has been wrecked?

Contact your installer for specific instructions on how to handle this situation. Depending upon the amount of damage to your vehicle, you may need to obtain a new IID. Should you have to replace your vehicle, you will need to have a device installed in your new vehicle. Have the installer complete a Certification of Ignition Interlock Device Installation, VL-82, and return it to this Department.

### I have kept my IID for the required amount of time based on my suspension, what steps should I take before having the device removed?

The RDL Unit will send a letter a short time prior to your actual release date advising you of when you may procure a corrected license without the IID restriction. At that time you may take the vehicle to your installer to have the IID removed. If you do not receive a letter you may contact DMV at 802-828-2061 to verify that you are eligible to have the interlock removed. If you have met your original reinstatement requirements, DMV will advise you that you may have the IID removed from your vehicle. You will also need to re-apply for the restoration of your unrestricted license by completing a Duplicate or Corrected Registration / License / Learner Permit, VL-15. See Return to an Unrestricted License.

## Renewing an RDL:

### When does my RDL expire?

Your initial RDL will expire on your second birthday after the issuance of your initial RDL.

Example: If your date of birth is 2/15/80, and you are issued an RDL on 8/15/16, your initial RDL will expire on 2/15/18.

### How often do I need to renew my RDL?

Your RDL must be renewed on a yearly basis. A renewal notice, along with an Application for Ignition Interlock Device Restricted Driver's License will be mailed to you 30 days before your RDL expires. You will need to complete the application and return it to DMV with the appropriate renewal fee. If you do not renew your RDL on or by the expiration, you will be issued a suspension for failing to renew your RDL, and will remain under suspension until you renew your RDL and pay the Reinstatement Fee.

### How much does it cost to renew my RDL?

Please visit our website at [dmv.vermont.gov](http://dmv.vermont.gov) for exam, license and reinstatement costs. For other costs please contact our RDL Unit at 828-2061.

### How many times may I renew my RDL?

Your RDL may be renewed on a yearly basis for an indefinite number of years.

## Returning to an Unrestricted License:

How do I get my unrestricted license back after I serve the required time with an RDL?

The RDL Unit will send a letter a short time prior to your actual release date advising you of when you may procure a corrected license without the IID restriction. **If you do not receive a letter you may contact DMV at (802)828-2061 to verify that you are eligible to have the interlock removed. It is very important that you contact this department prior to having the device removed.** When you have met the original reinstatement requirements (completion of CRASH, etc.) at the end of the required period of time for operating under an RDL, you may apply for the restoration of your unrestricted license. You will need to complete either a Duplicate/Corrected Registration/License/Learner Permit (VL-15) or an Application for License/Permit (VL-21) depending on the expiration of the unrestricted license.

What if I committed violations and received an extension?

If you committed any violations which would result in an extension of your RDL requirements, you will not be eligible for the restoration of your unrestricted license as described below; instead, you will need to serve the extended period of time. **See Violations.**

I completed the Total Abstinence program, when can I to return to an unrestricted license?

If you have previously been reinstated for Total Abstinence, you are not eligible for an unrestricted license; you will be required to have an IID in your vehicle **permanently**.

## Terms and Requirements for License Restoration:

Driving under the influence offenses:

- **1<sup>st</sup> offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 90 days, as well as completion of CRASH, etc.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 18 months, as well as completion of CRASH, etc.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> or Subsequent offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 3 years, plus prove Total Abstinence (see below).

Applicants under 21 suspended under 23 V.S.A. § 1216:

- **1<sup>st</sup> offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 6 months, as well as completion of CRASH, etc.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> or Subsequent offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 18 months or until reaching the age of 21, whichever is longer; as well as completion of CRASH, etc.

Refusal to consent to a breath test:

- **1<sup>st</sup> offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 6 months, as well as completion of CRASH, etc.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 18 months, as well as completion of CRASH, etc.



- **3<sup>rd</sup> or Subsequent offense:** Operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL for 3 years, plus prove Total Abstinence (see below).

### Total Abstinence Program:

If you apply for reinstatement through the Total Abstinence program, you will be required to have operated under the terms and requirements of an RDL for three (3) years.

## Obtaining, Installing, and Using an Ignition Interlock Device:

### Where can I get more information about getting an IID installed?

The list of certified manufacturers may be found at [dmv.vermont.gov](http://dmv.vermont.gov). If you do not have internet access, you may contact our RDL Unit at (802)828-2061 to obtain a copy of the list.

### Are there different types of IIDs?

Yes. For the most part, there are two types of IID's: (1) a "standard" device and, (2) a device that is equipped with a camera. Some of the camera-equipped devices also have Global Positioning System (GPS) and "real-time" reporting capabilities.

### Does it matter which type of IID I have installed?

Yes. **You must install an IID that is equipped with a camera.**

In some cases, the courts and/or Department of Corrections may require you to install a device that has "Real-Time" reporting" and/or GPS capabilities.

The list of manufacturers located at [dmv.vermont.gov](http://dmv.vermont.gov) and will indicate the types of IIDs each manufacturer offers. If you do not have internet access, you may contact our RDL Unit at (802)828-2061 to obtain a copy of the list.

### How much does it cost to have an IID?

Costs will vary by manufacturer, installer and type of device. You are responsible for all the costs associated with an ignition interlock device. These costs can include: installation, purchasing or leasing, removal, calibrating, data retrieval, servicing and any other fees charged by the installer/manufacturer. Recipients of 3SquaresVT, LIHEAP, Reach Up benefits or like benefits from another state are eligible for a 50% reduction in the cost of installation, maintenance, and removal of ignition interlock devices. Contact manufacturer for more information.

### How do I use an IID?

When the device is installed on your vehicle, the installer will provide you with both written, and hands on training, on how to operate a vehicle equipped with an IID.

### Do I need to have an IID installed on all vehicles owned/registered to me?

No. However, you may not drive a vehicle without an IID. If you have multiple vehicles, you may install an IID on the only vehicle you will use, or on multiple vehicles. If you install IIDs on more than one vehicle, you will have to pay all of the associated fees (i.e. installation, purchasing or leasing,

removal, calibrating, data retrieval, servicing, etc.) for each IID installed in each vehicle you will be driving. The vehicle(s) in which the device is installed must be registered, inspected and insured.

#### Can I install an IID on my motorcycle?

No. Because IIDs perform “random retests”, for safety purposes, IIDs cannot be installed on motorcycles.

#### Can I install an IID on my snowmobile, motorboat, or ATV?

No. IIDs may only be installed on vehicles (cars and non-commercial trucks).

#### I need to rent a car; can I drive a rental car with my RDL?

The terms and requirements of your RDL allow you to drive only vehicles equipped with an IID; **if the rental car does not have an IID, you are not permitted to drive the rental vehicle.**

#### Do I need to notify DMV that I had the IID installed?

Yes. When you have the IID installed, have the installer complete a *Certification of Ignition Interlock Device Installation* (VL-82).

## Operating a Vehicle Equipped with an IID

#### What is “permanent lockout state”?

When certain violations are logged by the IID, when the vehicle is turned off, the IID will not allow the vehicle to start again under any circumstances. The vehicle would need to be towed to the installer for servicing before you can operate it again. The violations which result in a permanent lockout state are:

- The IID detects tampering, circumvention, or bypass attempts,
- Driver fails to provide a breath sample 3 consecutive time,
- A scheduled service date is missed, or
- Service is not obtained within 5 days of the service reminder.

**⚠ Note:** Committing the above violations may also result in the extension of your RDL requirements.  
**See Violations.**

#### “Random Retests”:

##### What is a “random retest”?

To prevent a driver from having someone else blow into the IID to start a vehicle, and to prevent a driver from drinking while driving, the IID requires the driver to submit to random retests at variable intervals after a driver has passed an initial breath test and started the vehicle. The IID will signal you to take a retest within a certain amount of time after starting your vehicle.

Will performing a “random retest” cause me to take my eyes off the road, creating a hazardous situation?

No. When the IID signals for a retest, the driver has 10 minutes to provide the sample or to pull over to the side of the road in a safe area to provide the breath sample. There are no buttons to push; the driver must only breathe into the unit to complete a breath sample.

What happens if I fail the breath test during a “random retest”?

If the IID detects a BAC of 0.02 or greater, the horn will sound repeatedly and the headlights will flash until the vehicle is turned off. Once the vehicle is turned off, the IID will not allow you to restart the vehicle without taking an initial breath test. **Failing a “random retest” will result in an extension of your RDL requirements. See Violations.**

What happens if I do not provide a breath sample during a “random retest”?

If you fail to do the retest within 10 minutes, the horn will sound repeatedly and the headlights will flash until the vehicle is turned off. Once the vehicle is turned off, the IID will not allow you to restart the vehicle without taking an initial breath test. The IID will place your vehicle in a permanent lockout state; the vehicle would have to be towed to the installer for service before you can operate it again.

Why do the lights flash and the horn blow if I fail a “random retest”, or if I do not provide a breath test during the “random retest”?

If you have failed the “random retest” breath test, or if you do not provide a breath sample for a “random retest”, the flashing of lights and sounding of the horn is a mechanism of alerting law enforcement who are in the area you are travelling. It is a warning that they should conduct a traffic stop on your vehicle.

If I fail a “random retest”, will my car turn off while I am driving?

No. For safety reasons, the device cannot turn off the vehicle while you are driving. If you turn the vehicle off, it will not start again, but it will not turn off while you are driving.

Can family members and friends drive my IID equipped vehicle?

Yes. The RDL holder is not responsible for other drivers using the IID.

What if I am required to drive my employer’s company vehicle that is not equipped with an IID?

You may only operate vehicles equipped with an IID.

Can I drive a commercial vehicle with an RDL?

No.

If the IID malfunctions, will it shut the vehicle off?

No. The IID unit has no means of interrupting the operation of a vehicle once it is started.

## Miscellaneous Information on IIDs:

Does the IID need to be serviced or maintained in any way?

Yes. This will be covered by your installer.

What kind of information does the IID record?

The IID collects and stores the information below, which is reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles:

- Date and time of any use, or attempted use, of a vehicle including a photo of the driving compartment;
- Date and time of any attempt to tamper, circumvent or bypass the device;
- Date, time and alcohol concentration, in grams per 210 liters, of each breath sample provided to the device;
- Date and time of any malfunctions of the device;
- Date and time of any failures to provide retest samples;
- Date and time a “service required” message is issued to the customer by the device;
- Date any service is performed;
- Mileage and hours of operation of the vehicle since the previous service was performed.

Does the Department of Motor Vehicles monitor the IID?

Yes. If the data report indicates a failure to comply with **any** of the interlock program requirements, it may result in an **extension of your RDL requirements. See Violations.**

What if I forget to bring my car to the installer for servicing?

The device will give you a reminder 7 days prior to a scheduled service date, followed by a warning to obtain service within 5 days. If you fail to bring your vehicle to the installer for service within those 5 days, the IID will place your vehicle in a permanent lockout state; the vehicle would have to be towed to the installer for service before you can operate it again. Failure to bring your car in for service will result in an **extension of your RDL requirements. See Violations.**

What things will make me fail a breath test?

Anything containing alcohol may make you fail a breath test. Contact your manufacturer or installer for more information.

What happens if I fail the breath test when I try to start my car?

The vehicle will not start and the IID will enter a short lockout period of a few minutes. This lockout period allows an opportunity for the alcohol to dissipate from the mouth and for you to consider the reason for the failed breath alcohol test, for example; is the failure a result of the use of mouthwash, cough syrup, etc., or as a result of consuming too much alcohol. The IID will record the failure, which will be noted in the data report. **If you make three (3) attempts to start a vehicle with a BAC of .04 or above, your IID requirements will be extended for a period of 3 months. See Violations.**

What happens if I fail a breath test, but I have not been drinking?

Rinse your mouth with water, wait 5 minutes and keep taking a retest until you successfully pass the test.

Will the IID lose the memory data if the battery is disconnected?

No. The device has a battery backup system to protect the data.

Can I use a remote starter on my IID equipped vehicle?

No. Because you have to blow into the device to start your vehicle, a remote starter will not work.

Can I start my car and let it run with the heater on to defrost my windows?

No. The IID will randomly ask for breath tests (“random retests”) while the vehicle is running. If you fail to do the retest within 10 minutes, the horn will sound repeatedly and the headlights will flash until the vehicle is turned off. The IID will log this as failure to provide a “random retest” which may lead to a permanent lockout state. **See Violations.**

My vehicle is in need of repair or a state inspection:

We strongly suggest that you notify your installer before performing vehicle maintenance, service or repairs that would involve starting or driving your vehicle or disconnecting the battery. Your auto repair technician can contact your installer for specific instructions on how to avoid recording erroneous violations.

Can I have someone else take the breath test for me to start the vehicle?

No. Vermont law and Ignition Interlock Program Rules make it unlawful for an RDL holder to request or solicit another person to blow into, or otherwise activate the device, for the purpose of operating the IID equipped vehicle while you are under the influence of alcohol. **A violation such as this will result in an extension of your RDL requirements. See Violations.**

What if I did have someone else take the breath test for me so I could drive my car?

The car would be started illegally and would result in fines and/or extension of your RDL requirement.

Will installation of the IID damage the vehicle?

No. The IID unit is only connected to the wiring under the dash and under the hood. At the end of the program, the installer should restore the wiring to their pre-IID installation conditions.

I will temporarily be out-of-state; how will I meet the requirements of my RDL?

Vermont requirements still need to be maintained. Contact the manufacturer of your IID to locate an authorized interlock installer in the jurisdiction you will be in, who will provide you with the required services. It is your responsibility to work with your interlock manufacturer and authorized installer to provide us with all required reporting until you return to Vermont.

### I have been experiencing problems with my IID installer, what do I do?

Contact the manufacturer of the IID installed in your vehicle. A list of manufacturers can be found on our website [dmv.vermont.gov](http://dmv.vermont.gov) or may be found in the information, pamphlet or manual you received when the IID was installed in your vehicle.

## Violations:

### What actions are considered violations of the terms and requirements of an RDL?

The following actions are considered violations of the terms and requirements of an RDL and will result in an extension of the period of time you must operate under the terms and requirements of an RDL:

- If you make **three (3)** attempts to **start** a vehicle with a **BAC of 0.04 or above**, your IID requirements will be extended for a period of three (3) months.
  - Any **subsequent** attempts to start a vehicle with a **BAC of 0.04 or above** will result in additional three (3) month extensions which will run consecutively (following one after the other).
- If you fail **one (1) “random retest”** due to a **BAC of 0.04 or above, but less than 0.08**, your IID requirements will be extended for a period of three (3) months.
  - Any **subsequent** random retest failures due to a **BAC of .04 or above, but less than .08**, will result in additional three (3) month extensions which will run consecutively (following one after the other).
- If you fail **one (1) random retest** due to a **BAC of .08 or above**, your IID requirements will be extended for a period of six (6) months.
  - Any **subsequent** random retest failures due to a BAC of .08 or above will result in additional six (6) month extensions which will run consecutively (following one after the other).
- If you (a) operate a motor vehicle not equipped with an IID, or (b) attempt to tamper with or circumvent the device, or (c) failure to pullover after failing a random retest your IID requirements will be extended for a period of six (6) months.
- If you miss a required service visit to have the IID calibrated, your IID requirements will be extended for a period of sixty (60) days.

## Requests for Hearings:

### I was denied an RDL, can I request a hearing?

A person whose application for an RDL is denied may request a hearing. The hearing is to provide the person with the opportunity to show cause why the decision of the Commissioner should not be upheld.

### My RDL requirements were extended, can I request a hearing?

A person who commits any violations which would result in an extension of his or her RDL requirements, may request an administrative hearing for the sole purpose of verifying the record of adjudication or conviction.

### Who do I contact to request a hearing?

Agency of Transportation  
Policy & Hearings Section  
One National Life Drive  
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