The Swedish Transport Agency and our work with an alcohol interlock program

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Four modes of transport – the same responsibility

- Rules
- Permits
- Supervision
- Statistics on accidents
- Registry
Alcohol interlock program for DUI-offenders – a brief history

- Trial-program (for cars) 1999
- Extension of the trial-program (now includes cars, busses and trucks) 2003
- Law regarding a permanent program for DUI-offenders since the 1st of January 2012 (implemented on the 1st of January 2012)
Driving license and criminal charges in Sweden - overview

Police detects DUI

Driver license sent to Swedish Transport Agency
- License revoked 1 or 2 years

Report sent to the prosecutor
- Interlock granted after application for 1 or 2 years
- Criminal charges settled by prosecutor or in court
Application procedure

• The program is open for all DUI (of alcohol) -offenders
• Differentiated conditional time
  – Two years
    • BAC ≥ 0,1%
    • Repeated DUI during a five year period
    • DUI in combination with a diagnosed addiction or abuse of alcohol
  – Otherwise one year (BAC 0,02-0,09%) - prolonged to two years in case of diagnosis
• Cost: 1-year: 2 150-2 700 EUR, 2-years: 2 850 - 4 150 EUR
Obligations during- and after the program

- **During the program**
  - Data transmission
  - Breath test at start and during driving
  - Doctors certificate of drug and alcohol use
  - Conditional license is invalid after the determined conditional time

- **Regular license after conditional time**
  - Application procedure
  - Two year participants needs to verify sobriety

- **Follow up**
  - Two year participants are followed after a regular licence is granted
  - Medical certificate of drug and alcohol use after 6 months and after an additional 12 months (18 in total)
Conditional driver’s licence

Banperiod at least 1 or 2 years

Medical check

Application

Conditional period 1 or 2 years

Application for a license without condition at the end of the period
# The Swedish system in numbers 2013-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revoked licenses because of DUI (incl. drug use)</td>
<td>7396</td>
<td>6438</td>
<td>6609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications</td>
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<td>2196</td>
<td>2151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denied</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>340</td>
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<td>Conditional licenses granted</td>
<td>2088</td>
<td>1908</td>
<td>1811</td>
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<td>Valid conditional driving licenses</td>
<td>2836</td>
<td>3256</td>
<td>3092</td>
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Underway

• Evaluation of the (new) alcohol interlock program
  - The program as a whole – good/changes?
  - The alcohol interlock itself – technical difficulties?
  - Participation in the program vs. not participating – consequences for a person’s health, work, family, social life etc.?
  - Integrity issues

• Request (to the Ministry) for changes in the law regarding participants with a prescribed use of narcotic substances
Evaluation of the Alcohol Interlock program

- Conducted by The Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI)
- **Purpose**
- To investigate whether or not a larger proportion of those who had their license withdrawn for DUI are using Alcohol Interlock compared to the trial-program.
Evaluation, continued

• Questions
• How is the program working?
• Is there something that needs to be changed?
• How has the alcohol interlock been working?
• How has taking part in the program effected your health, sobriety, working life, social life etc?
• For those who do not have Alcohol Interlock:
• Why not and what are the consequences of not having one?
The evaluation contains:

- Follow-up of statistics from the STA. Persons who had their license withdrawn for DUI (not drugs) July 1st 2013-June 30th 2014.

- Interviews with persons in the one-year program, the two-year program and with those who do not take part in the program. In total approx. 30 persons are being interviewed face to face and via follow-up telephone interviews.
Evaluation, continued

- A questionnaire to approx. 1500 persons who has an Alcohol Interlock and approx. 1500 persons who do not. The collection is ongoing.
- The evaluation goes on from 2014-2017. All substudies are initiated.
Evaluation, preliminary results

- 10 persons with alcohol interlock for 1 year, 11 persons with alcohol interlock for 2 years and 4 persons (so far) without alcohol interlock have been interviewed.

- The majority is greatful for the possibility to be able to continue driving, maintaining everyday life and the quality of life.

- Some will keep the alcohol interlock installed after the program as well.
Evaluation, preliminary results

- Most of them have reduced their consumption of alcohol although no one has explicitly expressed that is has to do with the alcohol interlock.
- They do not want to put themselves in the situation to drive drunk again due to the costs, guilt and difficulties to be without a driving license.
- The respondents are experiencing unclear timeframes regarding applications, medicals, tests etc. and desire a personal scheme with all obligations and dates for these.
Evaluation, preliminary results

- Many respondents are experiencing that too much responsibility is put on the individual himself/herself, for example when it comes to finding a doctor. There is also an uncertainty about the doctor’s responsibility to make sure that medical certificates and test results are sent to the STA.
- All of the respondents mean that the costs for medical visits and testing are too high.
- The majority consider it easier to find a supplier of an alcohol interlock and a service workshop for it than it is to find a doctor.
Application forms
Information brochures
FAQ about the alcohol interlock program
Film describing the process behind the alcohol interlock program

www.transportstyrelsen.se
Questions?

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Proportion of drivers included in the program

Proportion in program among all drivers that had their license withdrawn because of drink driving: 30 %

Proportion included in one-year program: 10 %
Proportion included in two-year program: 20 %

About 80 % of the drivers completed* the one-year program
- 5 % left the program on their own request
- 13 % of the drivers got their conditional period extended to two years or where suspended from the program
- The rest did not apply for or was denied their unconditioned license

* Drivers that got their unconditioned driver's license back
Proportion of drivers included* in the program, preliminary results

Proportion in program among drivers with BAC less than 1 ‰: 20 %

Proportion in program among drivers with BAC more than 1 ‰: 40 %

* Drivers that started the program, it is not certain that all drivers completed the program.
Time between the drink driving offence and approved application

Results from a questionnaire study
Reasons for participating in the interlock program

Results from a questionnaire study
Reasons for not participating in the interlock program

Results from a questionnaire study

- Too expensive
- Don't want to be seen as an alcoholic
- Are managing well without a licence

- Employee or have own business
- Others
EU infringement procedure

SMART, Oslo 29th of November 2016
EU position

- EU Pilot in 2014 on the implementation of the Third Driving Licence Directive (2006/126 EC)
- The Commission’s opinion is that interlocks cannot be seen as a way to allow driving licences to be issued to or renewed for persons who from a medical point of view are considered unfit to drive due to their alcohol consumption
- E.g. persons who are dependent or addicted to alcohol
Swedish position

- Sweden do not consider our law to be in violation of the Directive
- When you get the condition to install an alcohol interlock it should be regarded as a limitation of an existing driving licence and not as an issue of a new driving licence
- Persons with a dependency/addiction to alcohol are therefore allowed to enter the program for offenders (apprx. 30 % of the participants)
Next steps

- Sweden and Finland’s proposal to an amendment to the Directive in this sense did not gather enough support from the Driving Licence Committee members.
- Waiting on the Commission’s response to our latest argumentation in the infringement procedure.