



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

# Four modes of transport – the same responsibility

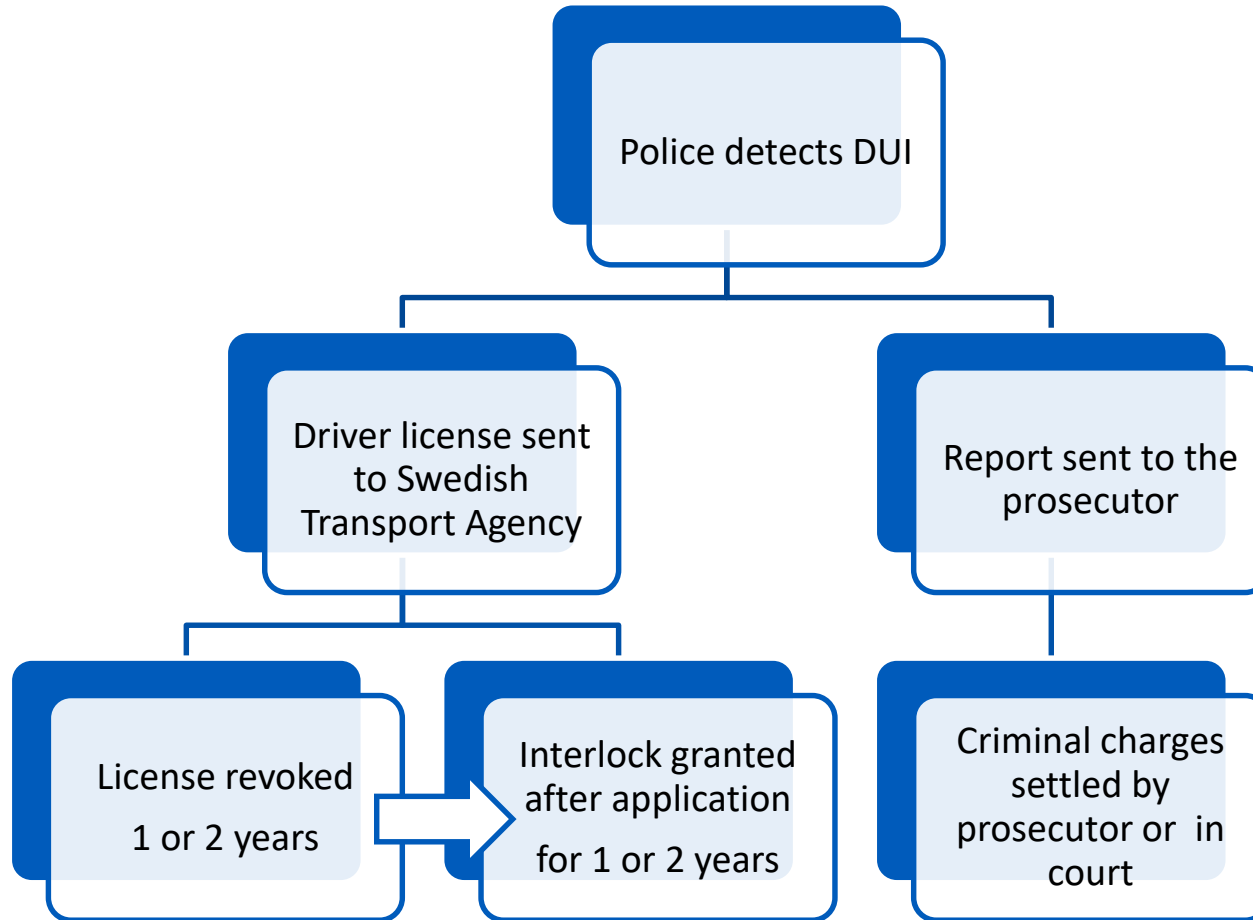
- Rules
- Permits
- Supervision
- Statistics on accidents
- Registry



# 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 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012 (implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012)

# Driving license and criminal charges in Sweden - overview

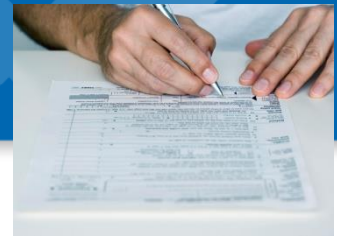


# Application procedure

- The program is open for all DUI (of alcohol) -offenders
- Differentiated conditional time
  - Two years
    - BAC  $\geq 0,1\%$
    - 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)



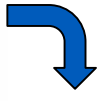
Banperiod at least 1 or 2 years

Medical check

Application



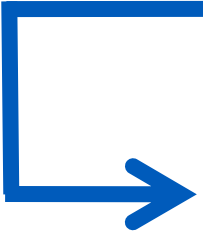
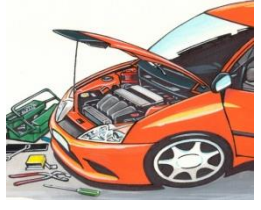
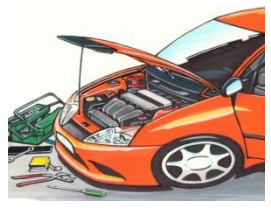
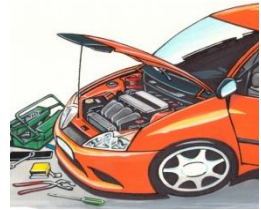
Conditional driver's licence



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

	2013	2014	2015
Revoked licenses because of DUI (incl. drug use)	7396	6438	6609
Applications	2374	2196	2151
Denied	286	288	340
Conditional licenses granted	2088	1908	1811
Valid conditional driving licenses	2836	3256	3092



# 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 persons 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?

# Evaluation, continued

- **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 grateful 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](http://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

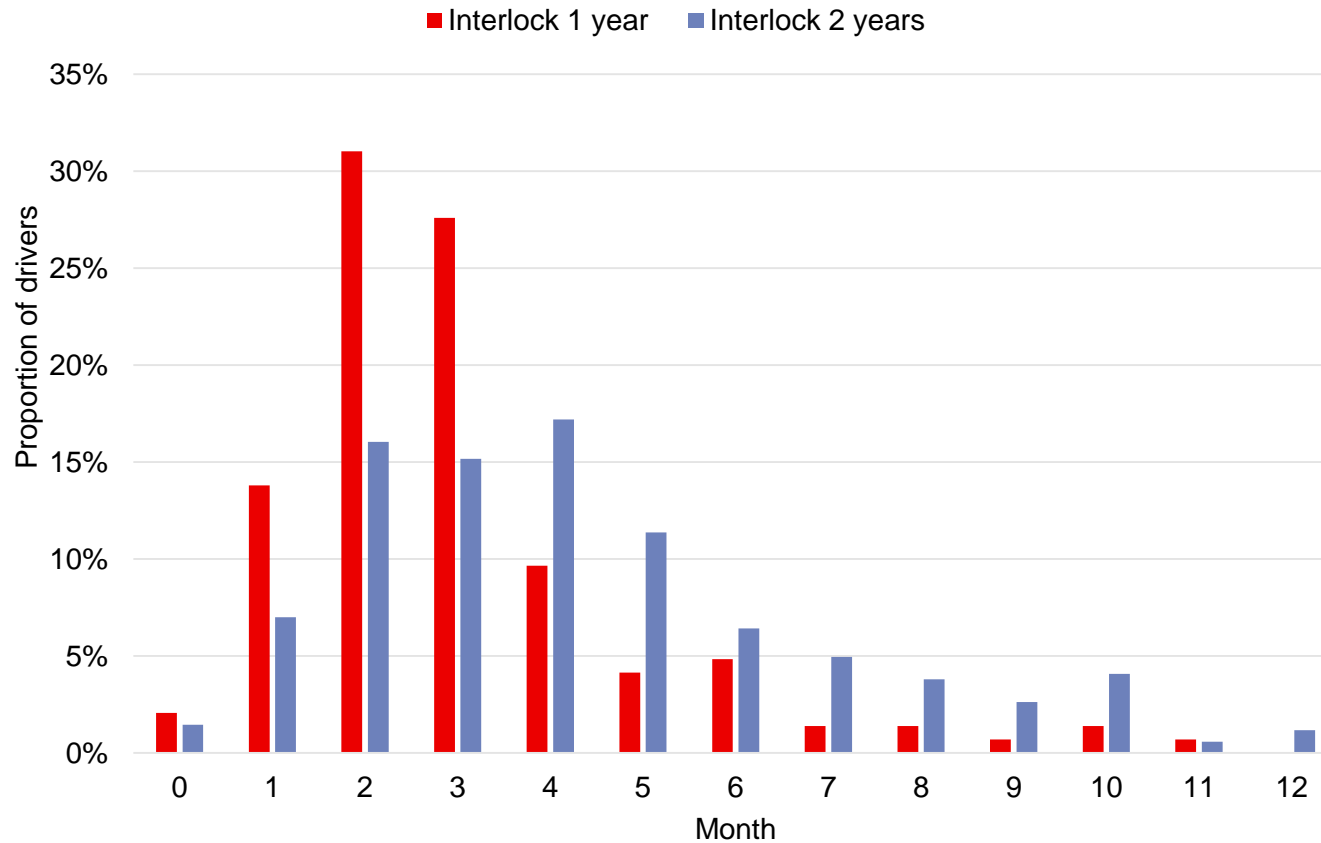
Proportion in program among drivers with BAC  
less than 1 ‰: 20 %

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.

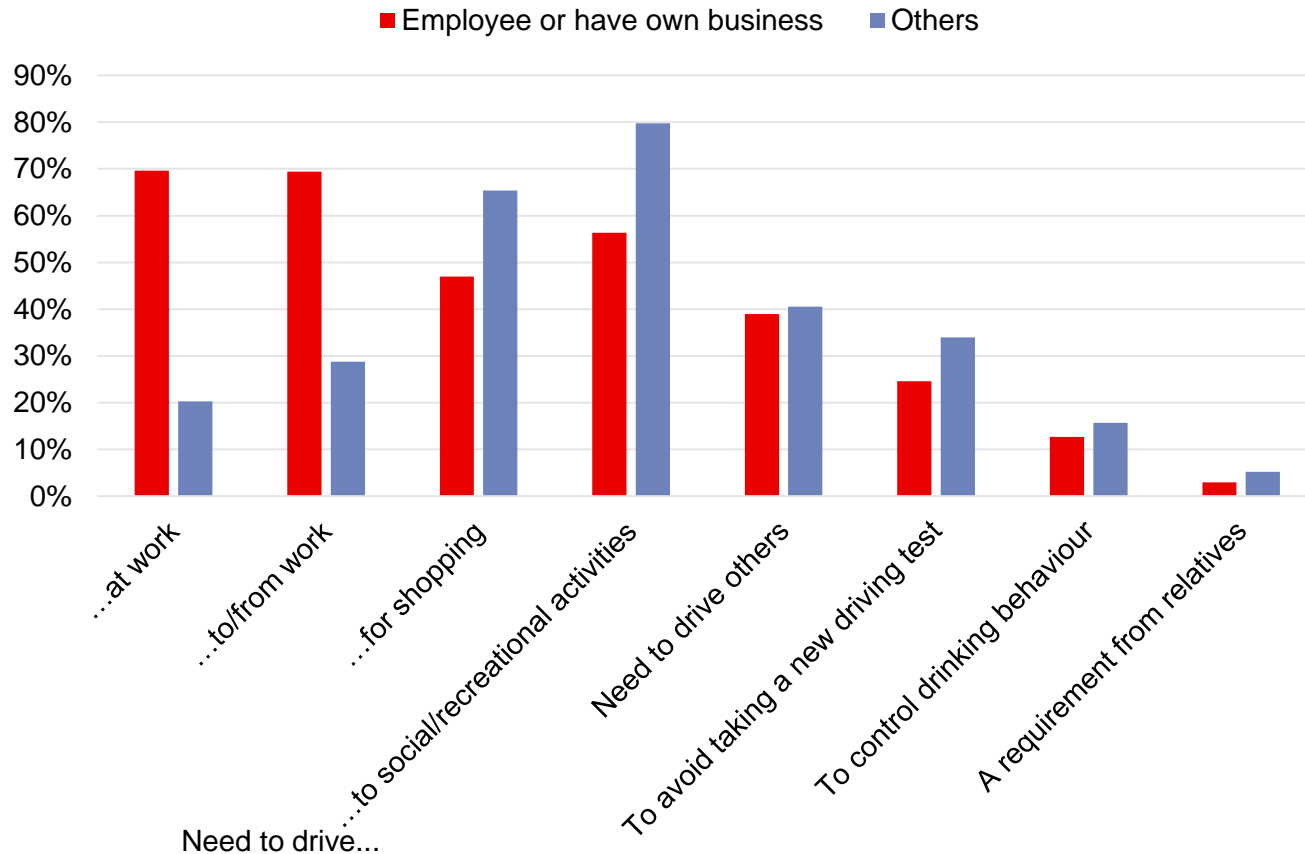
# Time between the drink driving offence and approved application

Results from a questionnaire study



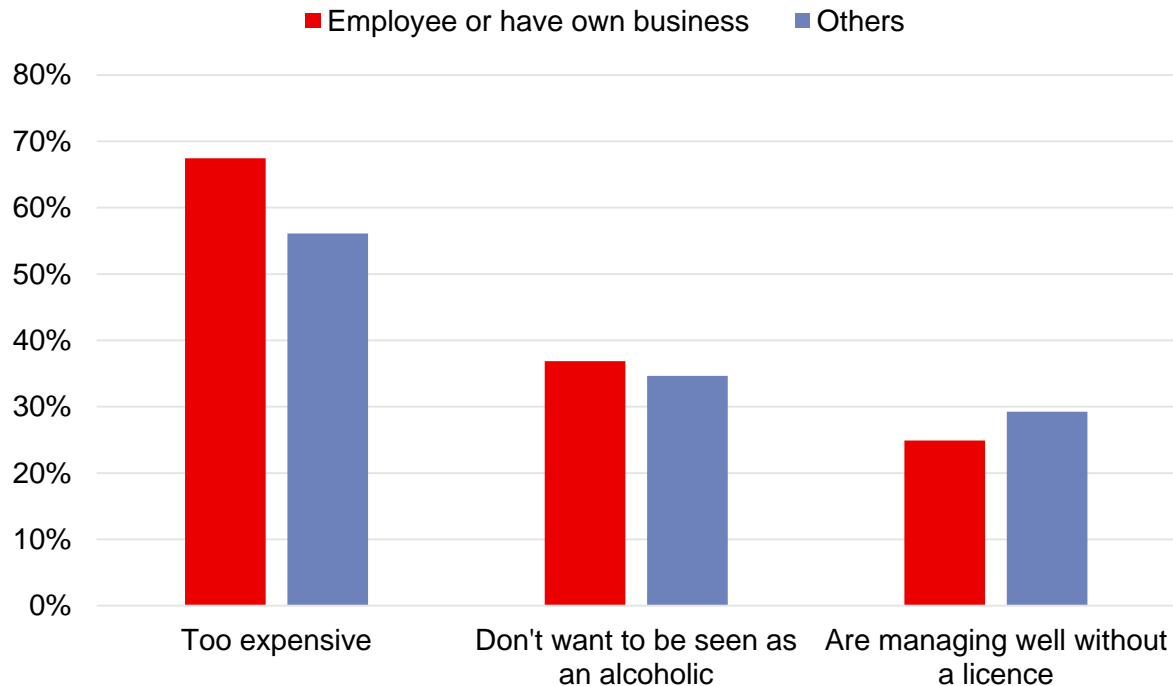
# Reasons for participating in the interlock program

Results from a questionnaire study



# Reasons for not participating in the interlock program

Results from a questionnaire study



# 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