



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT



Alcohol Interlock legislation in Belgium

Safe & Sober Talk ETSC – Madrid, 3 October 2024



BE situation driving under the influence of alcohol

2023 :
4050 injury crashes involving a driver under
influence of alcohol

= 11 per day



Summer police alcohol '**BOB**' campaign :

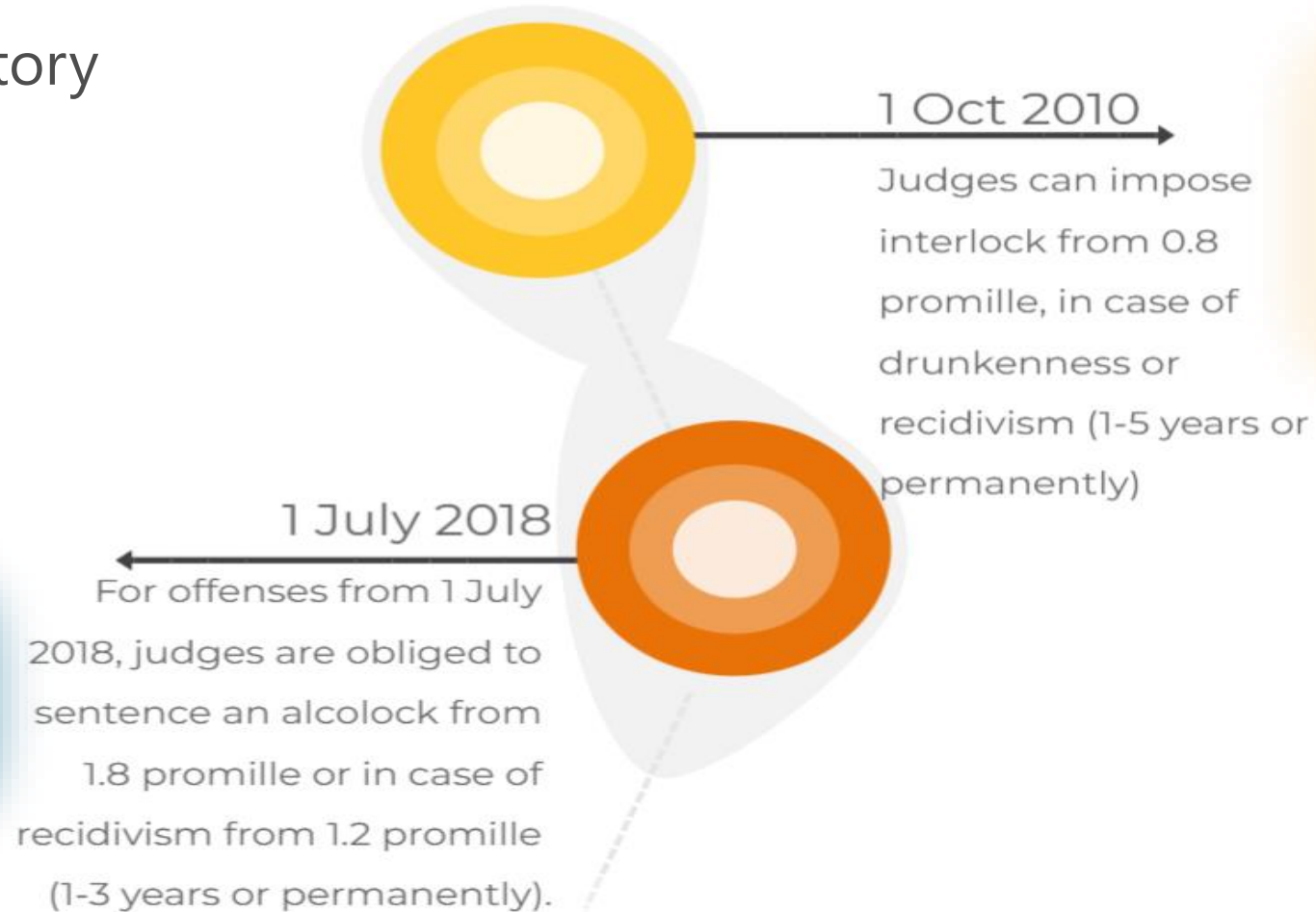
2% of all people checked were positive

Police checks + sensibilization



Alcohol Interlock legislation in BE

BE legislative history



**Law of
12/07/2009 and
royal decrees of
26/11/2010**

**Law
6/03/2018**



Targeted offenders

Judge MAY impose

- intoxication ≥ 0.8 pm
- drunkenness
- slight recidivism

**AI for
heavy drink-
drivers**

Judge **MUST** impose

- **severe intoxication (≥ 1.8 pm)**
unless properly motivated
 - **≥ 1.2 pm for repeat offenders**
no exception possible
- = 1 – 3 years/ for life

The judge can exempt certain **vehicle categories** (e.g. bus/truck) from AI,
except the category of offense

Out of scope: driving ban for physical or mental incapacity (e.g. alcohol addiction) and driving ban for life



Number of AI for offenders

2009-10: 1st legislation

2013: 1st device installed

2014: 7 offenders convicted

until 2017: only 66 persons in AI monitoring program

2018: 2nd legislation

2019: 165 installations (>2900 convictions)

2020: 600 installations (>3800 convictions)

2021: 860 installations

2022: 960 installations

until end 2022: > 2600 ongoing programs

2023: > **1000 installations**



Notification of the judgment by public prosecutor to convicted person: choice to make

1. No AI

No more driving
during same period



2. Alcohol Interlock



Monitoring program: a roadmap (1/3)



Notification of the judgment by
public prosecutor



Person **contacts accredited monitoring centre**

Training and guidance by psychologists

≥ 3 years' professional experience

Trained on risks and consequences of drink-driving, breath alcohol

No medical follow-up



Introductory meeting within 14 days to explain the
program (device, costs, driving licence, follow-up,
data downloads, ...)



Monitoring program: a roadmap (2/3)



Training on how to use the device, consequences of circumventing the system, risks and consequences of drink-driving, breath alcohol - within 30 days

	9.	10.	11.	12.
13.	AM	01.12.81	----	----
	A1	01.12.81	----	----
14.	A2	01.12.81	----	----
	A	01.12.81	----	----
	B	01.12.81	15.04.18	69
	C1	23.03.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)
	C	23.03.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)
	D1	----	----	----
	D	----	----	----
	BE	01.12.81	15.04.18	69
	C1E	24.04.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)
	CE	24.04.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)
	D1E	----	----	----
	DE	----	----	----
	G	07.04.10	----	----

Driving licence needs a code **69** - within 30 days



Installation of the device in accredited service centre
- within 30 days



4 – 8 months later: **3h training** to share experiences, intentions and strategies to keep driving and drinking separate



Monitoring program: a roadmap (3/3)



Periodic **downloads** of registration unit by service centre every 2 months (after 1 year every 6 months).

Data stored on a secured place and only readable by monitoring centre



Every time an evaluation of these data by monitoring centre. Whenever necessary and at least twice a year:

individual guidance interview



Closing meeting



Removal of the device



Conditions to fulfill during monitoring program

- pay costs in time
- duly participate in the program
- not drink drive anymore (≤ 0.2 BAC)
- not too often try to start under influence
- not disconnect or circumvent the system (abnormal results)



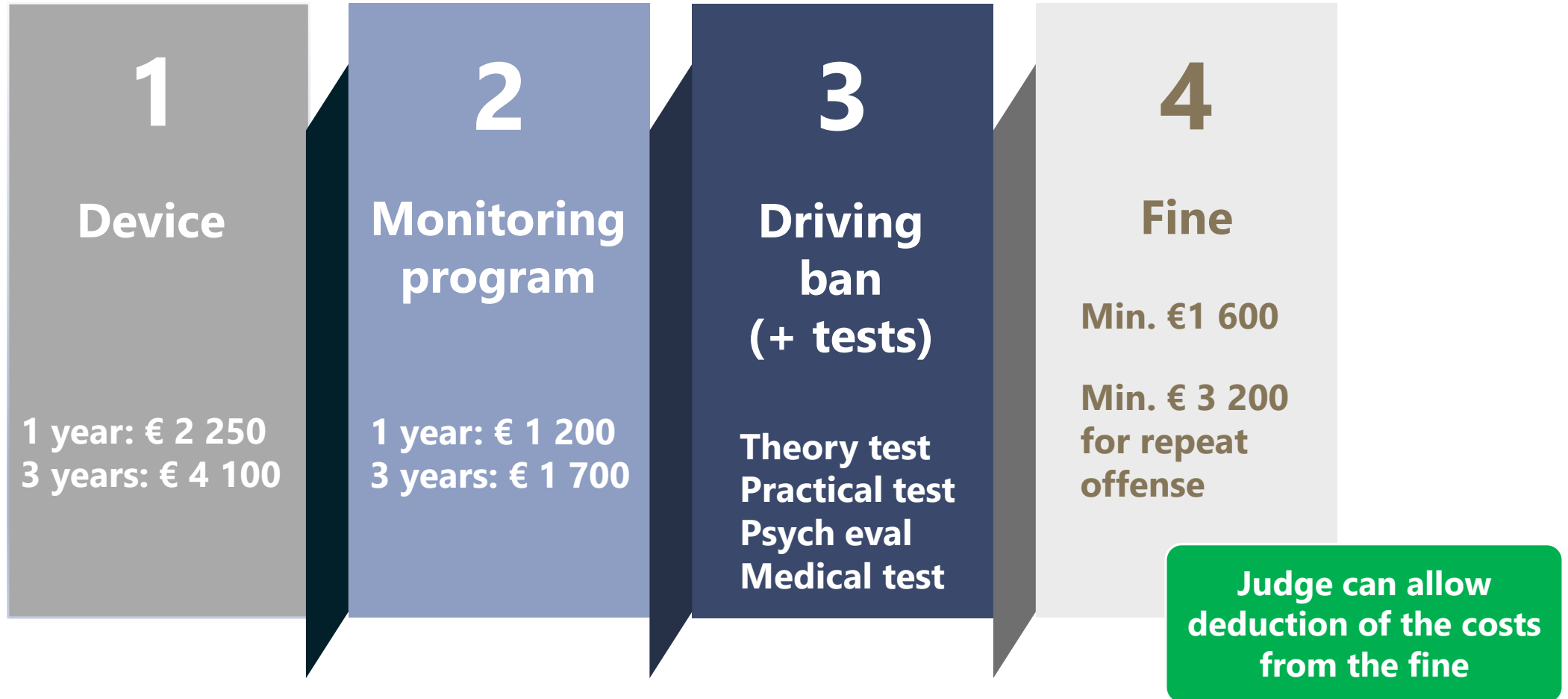
if not: program comes to early end & monitoring centre notifies public prosecutor in detail



public prosecutor can summon before court (judge: imprisonment, driving ban, fine)

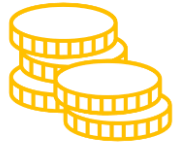


Consequences of conviction





Costs



1 year: € 3500

3 years: € 6000

- 65 – 70% device and downloads
- 30 – 35% monitoring program

How to lower the huge costs?

- Judges can allow deduction of the costs from the fine
- Monitoring program: pay by instalments
- Device to rent (30%)/ purchase (70%)
- Open market for monitoring centres, service centres and model-approved devices





Our good strategies

Convince and push judges

Monitoring program

Annual verification of device by an accredited body (independency)

Several AI manufacturers: lower prices, different accents like allow rental

Territorial coverage of service centres (2: 33) and monitoring centres (4: 74)

A program of 5 years is too long; 1-3 years can cause positive behavioral changes

Keep device after the AI period - helps keeping up good habits (without program)

Threshold at 0.2 pm (zero tolerance)

Our issues



- Time gap between offence and sanction: 12 to 18 months

- Alcohol dependency or not (driving ban for incapacity versus AI)?

No standard medical check

- Judges often opt out if they can

- Retests while driving to counter circumvention (retest is to be completed within 15')

- Combination driving ban (+ tests) + AI = complex

Subsequent decisions may need proper arrangements with public prosecutor



Alcohol interlocks: win – win

Safe roads

- Monitoring program helps for lasting behaviour change
 - ⑩ During AI period: chance on drink driving - 75%
 - ⑩ After AI period: some studies show behaviour change *if monitored*

Possibility to keep on driving (social & professional life)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgcNGn5CQ9I&feature=youtu.be>



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Thank you for your attention!



all for zero

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