



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IIDs

Q&A: IID OPERATION & SAMPLING

Q: How do I start a vehicle equipped with an IID?

A: The driver must provide a breath sample with less than the device setpoint, 0.02 g/210 L. There are at least three attempts allowed within 5 minutes to provide a passing sample. After providing a PASS, the driver has approximately two minutes to start the engine and head to their destination. If the driver does not start the vehicle within two minutes, the device will turn itself off and the driver must repeat the vehicle start process.

If the result is ABORT or FAIL, the device will request a second sample. If this result is PASS, the engine can then be started. The device will continue to request samples until 5 minutes have elapsed, or a PASS is provided. If no attempt to provide a sample is made, a REFUSAL, the device will shut itself off and the start routine must be re-initiated if wanting to start the vehicle.

If sample result is FAIL, and the driver consumed alcohol several hours earlier, it is possible to still have alcohol in their system above the prohibited alcohol concentration. They will have to wait until it has been eliminated to start their vehicle.

ABORT, FAIL, or REFUSAL sample results while attempting to start a vehicle are not violations— they do not count toward a violation reset nor will they activate the alert mode. The device is simply doing what it is supposed to, which is prevent operation of a motor vehicle when the driver has a prohibited alcohol concentration. However, any failed samples may be a violation of parole or probation conditions.

Q: Can an IID turn the vehicle engine off?

A: No, the only way the engine can be stopped is by the driver turning the ignition off.

Q: What can I expect to happen while driving?

A: After the vehicle has been started, the device will request a rolling retest sample within the first five minutes of operation and at random 5-to-30-minute intervals until the vehicle is stopped. There are also at least three attempts allowed within 5 minutes for this sample. All devices are programmed to allow sufficient time to pull out of traffic, if necessary, prior to providing a breath sample.

Q: Will I get stranded while operating a vehicle equipped with an IID?

A: No, under normal operating conditions, an IID will not strand a driver. If the device is in alert mode, it will continue to ask for retest samples at random intervals, providing an opportunity to provide a PASS. If the engine is turned off, a driver will not be able to restart the vehicle until their breath alcohol concentration drops below 0.02%.

Q: Can an IID drain a vehicle battery, so it won't start the engine?

A: When a vehicle equipped with an IID is serviced, the technician verifies that the battery is maintaining the necessary charge. If the voltage drops below 10V, they may recommend that the vehicle's battery be replaced, or electrical system be examined to determine the source of the problem.

Most batteries installed in vehicles in Wisconsin have at least 500 cold cranking amps, which means you can crank the engine for 30 seconds at 0°F and maintain a terminal voltage of at least 1.2V/cell. When IIDs are in



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a standby mode, they draw under 50 milliamps, or 0.01% of cranking capacity. By comparison, a cell phone charger draws 1-3 amps, and a single interior light draws around 2 amps. In the middle of winter, if the vehicle is not started, an IID could drain the battery in about 3 weeks. User's manuals suggest that all vehicles be started every 2-3 days, especially in winter months, to ensure that the battery remains fully charged.

Q: What happens if someone else drives my IID-equipped vehicle?

A: Any other driver must be alcohol-free and trained so that they successfully provide samples while operating the vehicle. The offender is responsible for all breath samples attempted and provided into the IID. If someone else is operating the vehicle, and provides anything other than passing samples, contact the vendor's customer service department as soon as possible for assistance.