

Drink driving and Interlock programs in France



The limits of the current model of sanctions against drink driving

- The « speed model » is based on the system for speed sanctions : frequency of controls and strong sanctions, mixed with an « educational » aspect of the demeritus point system, supposed to induce a change in driver's behaviour.
- **This model is not so efficient for drink driving :**
- Addiction of some (or many) drivers makes hazardous the voluntary control of their alcohol consumption.
- Disinhibition and euphoriant effect of alcohol disturbs self evaluation and bring the drunk driver to underestimate the impairment of his decision making process and his ability to drive.
- Notion of hard core drivers reluctant or resistant to those policies

The opinion from a medical and psychological point of view

- Personalization of sanctions (pedagogic and not only automatic process)
- Medical and psychological follow-up of offenders
- Promotion of sober driver systems and campaigns
- Real alcohol interlock programs (notion of probation)
- Prevention policies at work and in general society (available breath tests in cars, education)

- An Interlock device can be imposed to drivers by the prefect as an alternative to the suspension of the driving license or after a demand of the medical commission as well as by justice decision.
- It can be also imposed in case of recidivism

Interlock “programs” in France

- Not really a program, but a proposition of installation for 6 months under the control of the administration, concerning BAL > 0,4 mg in breath
- Up to 1 year (administration) or 5 years (justice decision)
- The aim of the proposition is *“to avoid a suspension of the driving license”*
- Very few decisions of justice: mainly recidivism or accidents with fatalities or severe injuries alcohol related.
- **No data monitoring**
- One consultation in an addiction centre, then five group sessions and a final consultation (*in fact no real and systematic control of effectiveness*)

- In 2019, among >300 000 alcohol related offenders, 4 846 (1,5%) propositions of installation in France (not all the drivers accepted, but no existing official data regarding real installations, growing this year around $\leq 20\%$)
- Beginning 2020, only half of the french departments had implemented this procedure
- Not enough installation centres and poor training of the drivers

What must be the content of a real alcohol ignition interlock program to convince field decision makers (MD, Justice)

- A legal frame
- A device
- Installation centre certified and trained
- Procedures
- A data recording and management
- A program manager
- A reporting process to the authority
- A monitoring process
- An evaluation process