

A drunken driving prevention device to prevent the engine from starting when alcohol is detected

[Alcohol Interlock] Total Shipment 2330 Units

Tokai-Denshi Inc. (Headquarters: Fuji City, Shizuoka Prefecture Representative: Kazunari Sugimoto) is at this time currently working towards zero drunk driving, and is pleased to announce that it has developed a system which prevents the engine of a vehicle from starting once alcohol is detected. The official description is a [Breath Exhalation Type Interlock Device]

1. Background

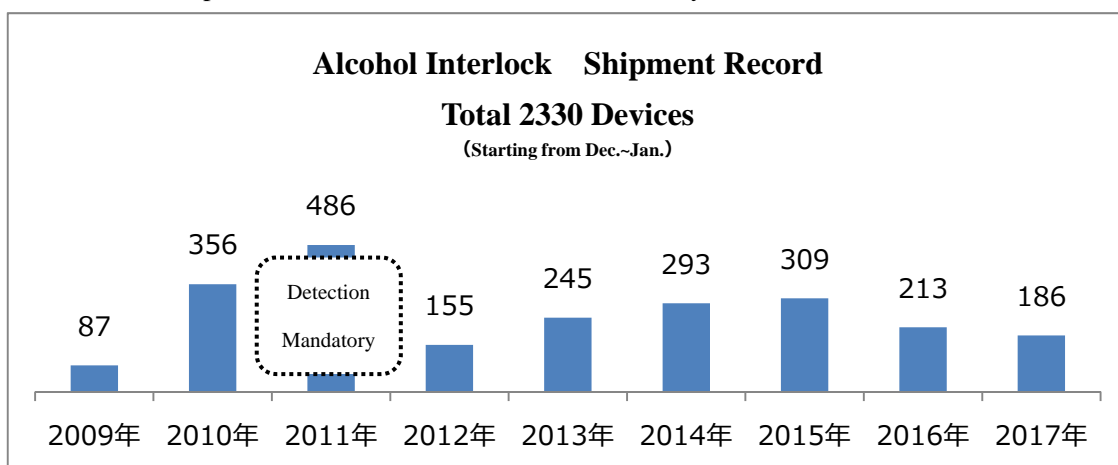
Since May 1, 2011, over six years have passed since the mandatory use of alcohol detectors for transportation companies was implemented. Currently, according to the law (See Attachment 1) trucks, buses, taxis, transportation, and shipping companies exceeding 80,000 drivers/operators must always have alcohol breathalyzers installed at their offices for use when checking for alcohol consumption from the time of clocking into work to clocking out. Not a single one of the professional drivers holding the steering wheel on the road will have a driver that has not received an all clear from an alcohol breathalyzing device.

However, although the aforementioned breathalyzer obligation was made to focus on [zero drunk driving by professional drivers] the trend in recent years has been that instead of incidents decreasing and levelling off, truck driver issues have been on the rise (See Attachment 2).

2. Press Release (Alcohol Interlock Shipment Record)

Our company since September 2009, has been selling the [Alcohol Interlock], a device that prevents the engine from running when alcohol is detected. At present, there are various kinds of [Alcohol Breathalyzers] that “always check an exhaled breath sample, leave a record, and prevent the vehicle from moving when alcohol is detected”. Such a strict breathalyzer is only the alcohol interlock (See Attachment 3). Our company acknowledges that this equipment is the most effective shortcut to making drunk driving “zero”.

Since I have compiled the latest installation data at this time you will find it as follows.



Despite receiving a subsidy by the All Japan Truck Association and from each prefecture (See Attachment 4), in the past few years, shipping track records have been on a downward spiral. As shown in Attachment 3, this is probably mainly related to an increase in smartphone-related alcohol breathalyzers, digital breathalyzers, and so on.

*What is an alcohol interlock device?

An alcohol ignition interlock is a “device that measures the alcohol concentration in the breath of a driver when starting the engine, so that the engine will not start if the result exceeds the specified alcohol set point.”



Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport Alcohol Interlock Technical Guidelines

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<http://www.mlit.go.jp/common/000207320.pdf>

In North America and Europe, it is common to mandate an interlock device to drunk driving offenders (average drivers) mainly by laws and regulations. On the other hand in Japan, there are companies that voluntarily choose alcohol interlocks, which seem to have the highest deterrence for alcohol abuse on the job. As a result we decided to use alcohol interlocks because among all drunk driving prevention devices they have the highest success rate. The number is about 2330 units. Interestingly, alcohol interlocks for the offender market are said to be somewhere around 400,000 units around the world, but there is no clear data on the real number in foreign countries because some countries only arbitrarily use them.



Our customers using our interlock device stick this sticker to the body of their truck. If you see it on the highways or service areas please be reminded of our company's serious efforts to prevent drunk driving.

★★For general inquiries or requests for more information★★

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