TECHNICAL REPORT

RAPPORT TECHNIQUE

TECHNISCHER BERICHT

CLC/TR 50436-3

July 2010

ICS 13.320; 43.040.10

English version

Alcohol interlocks - Test methods and performance requirements - Part 3: Guidance for decision makers, purchasers and users

Alcootests électroniques anti-démarrage - Méthodes d'essai et exigences de performance - Partie 3: Lignes directrices pour décideurs, acheteurs et utilisateurs

Alkohol-Interlocks - Prüfverfahren und Anforderungen an das Betriebsverhalten - Teil 3: Leitfaden für Entscheider, Käufer und Nutzer

This Technical Report was approved by CENELEC on 2010-06-04.

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CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B - 1000 Brussels

Ref. No. CLC/TR 50436-3:2010 E

Foreword

This Technical Report was prepared by the CENELEC BTTF 116-2, Alcohol interlocks.

It was circulated for voting in accordance with the Internal Regulations, Part 2, Subclause 11.4.3.3 (simple majority) and was approved by CENELEC as CLC/TR 50436-3 on 2010-06-04.

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Introduction

According to the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), in about a quarter of the fatal accidents that occur in traffic on European roads, alcohol impairment has been a contributory factor. Drink-driving is found in all social classes and professional categories, often without their families, friends, colleagues or supervisors knowing about it. In those cases where there actually is an awareness, it is often difficult to know how to act or confront the problem. A strategy has been drawn up within the European Commission to decrease alcohol related injuries as well as to support countries that are working in different ways to tackle the problem of drink-driving.

One strategy to decrease alcohol-related accidents is to implement the use of alcohol interlocks. The main purpose of alcohol interlocks is to prevent persons with breath alcohol concentrations exceeding a set limit value from driving a vehicle.

There are several areas in which alcohol interlocks may be used:

– installed in a vehicle as a general preventive measure for the promotion of traffic safety, or

– in vehicles as ordered by a court or an administrative authority as part of a drink-driving offender programme, or

– for persons subject to a medical or rehabilitation programme, or

– as a safety measure for the access to machinery or certain restricted areas.

The use of alcohol interlocks in the vehicles of drink-driving offenders was started in the USA in 1985, followed a few years later in Canada. From the end of the 1990s, the use of alcohol interlocks has spread worldwide, especially in Australia and several European countries. In Sweden, offender programmes started in 1999, followed closely by the use of alcohol interlocks for quality assurance of transportation.

This guidance for decision makers, purchasers and users contains numerous recommendations for those interested in the use of alcohol interlocks. However, it is not mandatory and it does not contain any requirements.

This Technical Report is part of a series of European Standards/documents which mainly describe test methods and requirements for alcohol interlocks. It is assumed that the recommendations given in this document are used for alcohol interlocks fulfilling the requirements of one or more of the performance standards of this series.

1 Scope

An alcohol interlock is a system comprising a breath alcohol measuring instrument and an immobiliser which may be easily installed in a motor vehicle. Before the vehicle can be started, a breath sample has to be provided to the alcohol interlock, normally through a mouthpiece. Once the breath alcohol measurement has been performed, the alcohol interlock will prevent drivers from starting the motor if they have an alcohol concentration above a predetermined limit value. This limit may be set at the legal limit of a respective country or lower.

Alcohol interlocks that meet the relevant European Standards detect, for example, if the sample is delivered by a human being. They are also capable of preventing and detecting tampering with the instrument.

Additional parts of the system may include identity checking or recording mechanisms.

The purpose of this Technical Report is to give practical guidance for selection, installation, use and maintenance of alcohol interlocks. It is directed to all those who have an interest in alcohol interlocks as well as companies selling and installing alcohol interlocks, purchasers and users for commercial, professional or private use. The Technical Report gives information about the alcohol interlock and how it is to be used.

This Technical Report primarily describes alcohol interlocks for use in vehicles as a general preventive measure in traffic safety. However, information provided may also be useful for alcohol interlocks in other applications.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 50436-1:2005, *Alcohol interlocks – Test methods and performance requirements – Part 1: Instruments for drink-driving-offender programs*

EN 50436-2:2007, *Alcohol interlocks – Test methods and performance requirements – Part 2: Instruments having a mouthpiece and measuring breath alcohol for general preventive use*

NOTE The technology of alcohol interlocks is rapidly evolving, and further innovations can be expected, which could be considered in future amendments or new parts of these European Standards.

EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* (ISO/IEC 17025:2005)

International Recommendation OIML R 126:1998, *Evidential breath analyzers*. International Bureau of Legal Metrology, 11, rue Turgot – 75 009 Paris – France