

Traffic tip of the week: what is a roadside test?

When a police officer stops a car, and the odour of alcohol is detected on a driver's breath, or the driver admits to recent consumption of alcohol, a roadside test can be conducted. The driver is issued a 'demand' by the officer to supply a sample of breath into a Roadside Screening Device. The device measures the amount of alcohol in the sample, and depending on the reading, allows the officer grounds to continue the arrest and conduct further breath tests; suspend a driver's licence for a period of between 3 days and 30 days; or release the driver outright. A roadside screening device is an instrument, approved by legislation, that offers a quick, accurate, and efficient valuation of the Blood Alcohol present in the given sample.

If a driver 'fails' a roadside test, he or she will be required to supply further samples into an 'approved instrument' sufficient for analysis. Failing or refusing to supply a suitable sample in either case is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Drivers under 21 years of age are required to have a 0% Blood Alcohol Concentration. A Roadside Screening Device will be used to obtain evidence to prove this offence.

If you drink, don't drive.