



Alberta Zero Alcohol Tolerance



What is AZAT?

The Alberta Zero Alcohol Tolerance Program (AZAT) is a tough drinking and driving law for new drivers, regardless of age, licensed under the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Program. Drivers with Learner (Class 7) or Probationary (Class 5) licences must have a zero blood alcohol level when driving or they will automatically receive a 30-day licence suspension, and a 7-day vehicle seizure.

What happens if I am caught driving after having consumed any alcohol?

Peace officers are given authority under the *Criminal Code of Canada* to request a breath sample from any driver whom they stop and reasonably suspect has consumed alcohol. If your breath sample indicates the presence of alcohol, then the peace officer will require the immediate surrender of your driver's licence. You then have the option to undergo a second test. If the second test indicates no alcohol in your blood, you will receive your licence back. If the second test shows alcohol in your blood, or if you do not take a second test, the peace officer will serve you with a Notice of Suspension/Disqualification. The officer will give an immediate suspension or disqualification that will be in effect for 30 days. The peace officer will also seize or immobilize your vehicle, which will be in effect for 7 days. If you refuse to provide a breath sample, you will be charged with a criminal offence and your licence suspended under the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension (AALS) program.

Who are AZAT Suspension and Vehicle Seizure Notices issued to?

Any driver with a Learner's or Probationary licence under GDL who is found to have consumed alcohol before driving.

If this situation occurs, you will be issued an AZAT Notice of Suspension/Disqualification form by a peace officer. This form records personal information (name, driver's licence number, etc.) and details of the event.

Can I appeal the suspension/disqualification or the seizure/immobilization?

If you have been served with an AZAT Notice of Suspension/Disqualification you can appeal and apply for a hearing to the Alberta Transportation Safety Board (Board). The information on the back of the Notice of Suspension/Disqualification form explains the steps you need to take and grounds for an appeal. In making its decision, the Board may take into consideration an applicant's accident record, conviction record, driver attitude, driving skills and knowledge, driving disabilities and any other factors that the Board considers relevant. An appeal costs \$125 for a non-oral written hearing or \$250 for an oral in-person hearing before the Board. Applications for a hearing can be purchased at any Alberta registry agent (service fees will be applied).

For information on vehicle seizure/immobilization appeals, please see the Vehicle Seizure or Immobilization Appeal Hearing Information Sheet at <http://atsb.alberta.ca>.

To locate a registry agent near you, look in your local directory or visit:
<http://www.servicealberta.ca/1641.cfm>

This information sheet is provided free of charge.