

AZAT

Alberta Government

Alberta Zero Alcohol/Drug Tolerance

What is Alberta Zero Alcohol/Drug Tolerance Program?

The Alberta Zero Alcohol/Drug Tolerance (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/drug level when driving or they will automatically receive a 30-day driver's licence suspension, and a 7-day vehicle seizure.

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

As of April 9, 2018, Alberta's Zero Alcohol/Drug Tolerance Program for Graduated Driver Licence (GDL) drivers—which to date included zero tolerance for alcohol in the bloodstream—will be extended to include cannabis, cannabis/alcohol combination, and illegal drugs.

Peace officers are given authority under the *Criminal Code* (Canada) to request a breath sample from any driver whom they stop and reasonably suspect has consumed alcohol. They can also request a Standardized Field Sobriety Test from any driver whom they stop and reasonably suspect has consumed a drug. Where police reasonably believe a driver's ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired by alcohol or a drug, or a combination, they may make a demand to comply with a breath test, Drug Recognition Evaluation, and/or blood sample as appropriate.

If your sample indicates the presence of alcohol/drugs, the peace officer will require the immediate surrender of your driver's licence. Please note you have the option to request a second breath test at roadside to verify the presence of alcohol, or a blood test to verify presence of drugs. If the second test does not indicate the presence of alcohol/drugs, you will receive your driver's licence back. If the second test shows the presence of alcohol/drugs in your sample, or you do not choose to undergo a second test, the peace officer will serve you with a Notice of Suspension/Disqualification which immediately suspends driving privileges for 30 days and in addition, will seize/immobilize your motor vehicle for 7 days. If your breath sample indicates a blood alcohol concentration in excess of 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, if the peace officer has reasonable grounds to believe you are impaired by alcohol, drugs or their combination, or if you refuse/fail to provide a breath or fluid sample, you may be suspended under the Alberta Administrative Licence Suspension Program and charged with a criminal offence.

Who are Alberta Zero Alcohol/Drug Tolerance Program Suspension and Vehicle Seizure Notices issued to?

Any driver with a Learner's or Probationary Driver's Licence under the GDL Program who is found to have consumed alcohol/drug before driving.

If this situation occurs, you will be issued an AZAT Notice of Suspension/Disqualification form by a peace officer.

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 the suspension to the Alberta Transportation Safety Board ("the Board"). You have 30 days from the date you are served with the Notice of Suspension/Disqualification to appeal your Suspension under Section 45(2) of the *Traffic Safety Act*. The information on the back of the Notice of Suspension/Disqualification Form guides a driver through the appeal process which is conducted by the Board. Applications for Hearing are available at any Alberta Registry Agent and must be submitted to the Board. Associated costs for the Application for Hearing are \$125 for a written hearing or \$250 for an in-person hearing. Alberta Registry Agents may also charge a service fee. For further information on the appeal process, please contact the Board (contact information below) or to purchase an Application for Hearing, please visit any authorized Alberta Registry Agent.

For all inquiries in regards to AZAT Suspension appeals, please contact the Alberta Transportation Safety Board – North or South Region:

North Region

Toll Free (in Alberta) by dialing 310-0000
Telephone: 780-427-7178 Fax: 780-422-9739

South Region

Toll Free (in Alberta) by dialing 310-0000
Telephone: 403-297-3466 Fax: 403-297-4139

Website: www.atsb.alberta.ca

To locate an Alberta Registry Agent near you, please refer to:

- Service Alberta Contact Centre at 780-427-7013 (Toll Free by dialing 310-0000);
- Local telephone directory under "Licensing and Registry Services";
- Online at www.servicealberta.ca/find-a-registry-agent.cfm.

This information Sheet is provided free of charge