



# AAMR FAQs





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# 1. The Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirement (AAMR)

<b>What is AAMR?</b>	AAMR is a new requirement that can be ordered where a community Order (CO) or suspended sentence Order (SSO) is imposed by the court for alcohol related crimes. It requires the wearer to <b>abstain from alcohol for up to 120 days</b> and compliance will be electronically monitored.
<b>What is the eligibility criteria for AAMR?</b>	An AAMR can be ordered for <b>adults</b> where the <b>offence, or associated offence, is alcohol related</b> .  <b>The wearer must not be alcohol dependent or have an Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) recommended or currently in place.</b>
<b>Can the tag monitor a curfew?</b>	No. The tag is used to monitor alcohol consumption and does not provide any curfew or location tracking capability.
<b>Can a wearer be dual tagged i.e. AAMR and Location Monitoring?</b>	There is nothing in the law that says someone may not wear two tags. However, sentencers will want to consider the proportionality of a disposal that requires the fitting of two devices and if possible, prioritise the most appropriate requirement based on risk management & rehabilitation.
<b>When will AAMR be available?</b>	AAMR will first be available in Wales from October 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020. It will become available nationally across England from February 2021.
<b>Who do I contact if I have a query about AAMR?</b>	Please email the Electronic Monitoring functional mailbox at: <a href="mailto:EMChange@justice.gov.uk">EMChange@justice.gov.uk</a> with any AAMR related queries.

## 2. The Alcohol Monitoring Tag

<p><b>How does the tag work?</b></p>	<p>The tag automatically monitors alcohol consumption by collecting, sampling, and testing the air between the wearer's skin and the tag. This takes place <b>once every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day</b> (48 times a day).</p>
<p><b>Where is the tag fitted?</b></p>	<p>The tag must be fitted around the ankle and must be directly exposed to the skin. The tag cannot be worn on the wrist.</p>
<p><b>What does the base station do?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The base station is installed at the wearer's address or, if they do not have a fixed abode, it can be installed at their local probation office.</li> <li>• The base station collects information from the tag and uploads it onto SCRAMnet (a Web-based application in which wearer data from the alcohol tag is <b>collected, analysed, and stored</b>).</li> <li>• The wearer needs to be within 10 metres of the base station so that the data collated on the tag can be uploaded at a set time. This normally happens when the wearer is asleep but it can be set to fit with an individual's circumstances e.g. if someone works shifts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What happens if an upload time is missed?</b></p>	<p>If the wearer misses their upload time, the data will be stored in the tag. <b>The tag has the ability to store data for 30 days.</b> This means that when the <b>Wearer does come within 10 metres of the base station</b>, all data will be uploaded and their compliance can be assessed.</p>
<p><b>Does the tag need charging?</b></p>	<p>No. The wearer will not have to charge the tag. However, the tag does have a battery with a life span of around 90 days. Electronic Monitoring Services (EMS) will contact the Wearer to make arrangements when they need to replace the battery.</p>
<p><b>If battery life is 90 days, what happens if the order is 120 days?</b></p>	<p>As the battery nears the end of the 90 day life span, EMS will be notified. They will arrange a visit with the wearer to replace the battery.</p>
<p><b>How sensitive is the tag?</b></p>	<p>The tag is designed to be very sensitive. It can differentiate between alcohol that is consumed and environmental alcohol exposure such as hand sanitiser or perfume which contains alcohol.</p>

### 3. Wearing a tag

<b>What happens in an emergency?</b>	If the conditions of AAMR need to be broken in an emergency, the wearer must speak to their Probation Practitioner. If they are unable to reach them, they should call the 24/7 monitoring centre on the free phone number <b>0808 178 0058</b> .
<b>Can wearers shower? What about swimming or hot tubs?</b>	Yes. Showers are encouraged. However, the tag cannot be submerged underwater (swimming pools, hot tubs, the bath). If the wearer only has a bath, they must not submerge the tag into the water. You can use a cloth and soap and water to clean the area around the tag.
<b>What body lotions and sprays can the wearer wear?</b>	Products containing alcohol should not be used near the tag. If aftershave or perfume is sprayed in areas far away from the tag this should not be a problem. But if it does fall near the tag and cause an alcohol alert, your Probation Practitioner will be told and will discuss this with you.
<b>What happens if the wearer uses hand sanitiser?</b>	If hand sanitiser, containing alcohol, is used only in the hand region, then the tag will not detect it. If however, some drips onto the tag or near the tag, an alcohol reading will be taken. However, this will be classified as an environmental exposure to alcohol.
<b>Can the wearer exercise?</b>	Yes. Exercise will have no impact on the functionality of the tag. However, contact sports such as football and rugby should be avoided. This is for Health & Safety reasons as the tag may cause harm/injury to those who may come in to contact with the tag.
<b>Can the wearers wear boots or leggings?</b>	Boots or leggings can be worn over the top of the tag, but some boots could cause the tag to rub. Nothing should be worn that would sit between the skin and the tag.
<b>Will security alarms be set off by the tag e.g. when entering a shop?</b>	No
<b>Can the wearer have a spray tan?</b>	No. The chemicals used in a spray tan could cause an alert or break the tag.
<b>Can the wearer cut the tag off?</b>	The tag can be removed by cutting it off. However this will show up as an alert and the Probation Practitioner will be informed of the non-compliance.

## 4. Alerts and Breach process

<b>Who is responsible for which alerts?</b>	<b>Probation are responsible for all alerts relating to the consumption of alcohol and obstructions/removal of the tag. EMS are responsible for responding to maintenance issues</b> for example where the battery requires changing or they need to inspect if tampering occurred.
<b>How long does it take for a breach pack to be generated?</b>	If the Probation Practitioner decides to proceed with a breach, a breach pack will be generated by the AAMR coordinator. This can be produced very quickly and can be easily exported from SCRAMnet and sent to the Probation Practitioner.
<b>If a breach is contested by the wearer, how long does it take to generate a trial report?</b>	<b>AMS</b> (The Alcohol tag providers) will generate a trial report as and when required. The turnaround time for this is 2 weeks. If evidence is required, they are available to attend in person or via video link as they are primarily based in the US.

## 5. Myths

<b>If the wearer drinks alcohol the tag will shock them</b>	<b>False.</b> The tag will not shock them. Some offenders report being aware of a slight vibration or buzzing sound when the tag collects the sample.
<b>If the wearer is not in range of the base station for 48 hours, the readings in the tag will be lost</b>	<b>False.</b> The Tag can store the data for up to 30 days but we recommend daily downloads for effective monitoring
<b>The wearer will have a positive alcohol reading if they eat rum cake</b>	The wearer would have to eat 10 pounds of typical rum cake for an alcohol consumption alert to happen.
<b>The wearer will have a positive alcohol reading if they use mouth wash</b>	The wearer would need to drink at least a litre of mouth wash for an alcohol consumption alert to happen.