

ALCOHOL ABSTINENCE AND MONITORING REQUIREMENT (AAMR)



WHAT IS IT?

The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates the proportion of violent incidents where the victim believed the offender(s) to be under the influence of alcohol, for year ending March 2018, was 39%.

The Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirement (AAMR) allows courts to impose a requirement where an offender has to abstain from alcohol for up to 120 days.

The offender is required to wear an alcohol monitoring tag to ensure compliance as part of a Community Order or a Suspended Sentence Order.

WHO CAN BE TAGGED?

Adults who have committed an alcohol-related offence and are not alcohol dependent or do not have an Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR).



HOW DOES THE TAG WORK?



The alcohol tag is a non-invasive device that is securely fitted to the ankle. It continuously monitors for the presence of alcohol by taking a sample of the sweat from the wearer every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day. The information from every sample is stored in the tag until it is uploaded to the base station, which will occur at an agreed time daily. The information from the tag is analysed to give a detailed picture of compliance and can detect if someone has been drinking alcohol, or has attempted obstruct or remove the tag.

WHAT DOES THE TAG DO?

An alcohol tag can:

- encourage the offender not to drink alcohol because they know they will be found out
- prove whether an offender has been drinking alcohol, so the Responsible Officer has evidence if they need to take the offender back to court



An alcohol tag cannot:

- stop someone from drinking
- guarantee that an offender will be arrested instantly if they do drink alcohol
- monitor the location of the offender



HOW ARE BREACHES MANAGED?



Alert data will be made available to both Probation and Electronic Monitoring Services for action. Responsibility for managing alerts will be shared across Probation and EMS. Probation will manage alerts relating to alcohol consumption, potential obstructions and missed uploads (Responsible Officer Monitoring). EMS will manage alerts relating to tag removals, equipment re-fits and maintenance (Field Service Monitoring).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Subject benefits

- reductions in alcohol-related criminal activity
- personal benefits for offenders who abstain from alcohol, e.g: health, relationships, finances, employment prospects
- allowing the offender to be/remain a constructive member of the community through the continued commitments of work, a home, and family life
- community sentences have a lower re-conviction rate than short custodial sentences



Probation Court benefits

- allowing probation, judges, and magistrates to directly address a core element of the offence (alcohol misuse)
- it is an additional tool for probation to use in the management and rehabilitation of the offender
- improved sentencer and public confidence in the CJS's ability to respond to alcohol related crime with effective punishment and the opportunity for rehabilitative interventions
- providing for long-term and effective teachable moments

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: EMCHANGE@JUSTICE.GOV.UK



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