

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2025–2026

It looks like Virginia is replacing the Intox EC/IR II with a new evidentiary breath test instrument: the Draeger Alcotest 9510. At the time of this writing, the Virginia Department of Forensic Science is in the final phase of contracting. The Alcotest is introduced in the breath test chapter.

Ignition interlock law changed for 2025. The default for all DUI 1st convictions – regardless of BAC – is now the 12 month “unrestricted restricted” license. Clients with DUI 2nd convictions can also receive an unrestricted restricted with ignition interlock and a remote alcohol sensor. And, for the first time ever, clients can install ignition interlock before their trial date and the pre-trial time counts towards any post-trial suspension and/or ignition interlock requirements.

Starting in July 1, 2026 judges will have the option to require a GPS based speed limiter for those convicted of Reckless Driving.

Passengers in the back seats must also wear safety belts though the officer cannot stop a vehicle for this sole violation.

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October 2025

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