

SAFETY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR 1

PERCENTAGE OF DRIVERS AND RIDERS COMPLYING WITH DRINK DRIVING LAWS



Apr 2025

Safety Performance Indicator (SPI) 1 measures the percentage of drivers and motorcycle riders that comply with drink driving laws.

WHY DRIVING WITHIN THE LEGAL BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC) LEVEL IS IMPORTANT

Driving or riding under the influence of alcohol affects judgement and decision making, slows reaction time, reduces attention span, and is often combined with other risky behaviours, such as speeding.

The risk of a casualty crash (being seriously injured or killed) **doubles** when driving with an alcohol level just in excess of 0.05% blood alcohol concentration (BAC).



2X risk
when driving just in
excess of 0.05% BAC

On average 4.8 per cent of all crashes have involved a driver or rider above the legal BAC limit (0.05%), between 2013-2023.

On average, alcohol has been a crash factor in 15 per cent of crashes resulting in serious injuries or death each year, (between 2013 – 2023). Therefore, increasing compliance with drink driving laws will help reduce road trauma associated to drink driving on Tasmanian roads.



Alcohol – has been
a crash factor in
15%
of crashes resulting in
serious injuries or death.

HOW THIS INDICATOR IS MEASURED

This indicator is informed by a representative sample. Random Breath Test (RBT) operations by Tasmania Police provided a representative sample of Tasmanian driver compliance with drink driving laws. Conditions for the representative sample were informed by best practice methodological guidance, including undertaking tests at a range of locations and times.

PROGRESS ON COMPLIANCE

The Tasmanian Government is committed to targeting illegal drink driving on Tasmanian roads. Tasmania Police undertakes RBT activities across Tasmania to enforce the legal BAC limit.

Research has found that increasing RBT operations can reduce the amount of drink driving related fatalities by approximately 30 per cent (Austroads, 2020). The Road Safety Advisory Council (RSAC), supported by the Motor Accident Insurance Board (MAIB), also undertake targeted campaigns to influence behaviour change around drink driving.

WHAT DOES 100 PER CENT COMPLIANCE MEAN?

99.75 per cent of drivers were within the legal blood alcohol level in a 2023 sample. The level of non-compliance (0.25 per cent) equates to approximately 1,000 drivers (0.25 per cent of total number licenced drivers in Tasmania, (430,803, December 2023)). Approximately 3,000 crashes involved a driver not complying with drink driving laws between 2013-2023. Based on crash data from the same period, if these types of crashes could be eliminated through 100 per cent compliance with drink driving laws, this may result in a reduction of approximately 300 crashes per year, including a reduction of approximately 40 crashes per year that may result in serious injury or death.

- The target direction for SPI 1 is an increasing level of compliance.
- Based on a sample in 2023, SPI 1 = 99.75 per cent of drivers and riders complying with drink driving laws.