

**Amendment to the Motor Vehicle Road & Traffic
Act of Trinidad & Tobago (Chap 48:50)**

THE BREATHALYSER ACT



What You Need To Know

- There now exists a prescribed legal limit of alcohol permitted in the blood of a driver, who is either *driving* or *attempting to drive* a motor vehicle on the public roadways of Trinidad & Tobago.
- If you are found to be over the prescribed limit you can be arrested *without warrant* and face possible penalties including monetary fines, imprisonment and loss of driving privileges.



Why Is This Necessary ?

- Alcohol impairment and driving is a very dangerous combination with consequences varying from vehicle or property damage to death.
- Road users need to be protected from reckless drivers who choose to consume alcohol and operate a motor vehicle on the roadways without due regard for other road users.



The Legal Limit

Legal Limit For Trinidad & Tobago

- 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100ml of breath.
- This is equivalent to **.076** grams per 210 Liters of breath.
- This closely approximates to **.08** (BAC limit in the United States)
- Any driver found with a reading over 35 can be arrested without warrant.



The Consequences:

First Conviction:

Fine: TT \$ 8,000



Prison: 3 Years



Second Conviction

Fine: TT \$ 15,000



Prison: 5 Years



Two Consecutive Convictions:

3 Year Driving Disqualification



Third Conviction:

Permanent Driving Disqualification



The Process

Stage 1:

A Police officer will ask the driver to perform a breath test using a hand held Field Sobriety Testing device.



Stage 2:

If the driver is found to be over the legal limit they will be required to perform a 2nd breath test using an **evidential unit** which may be in the police vehicle or at the police station.



Evidential Unit



This unit will provide a Print out with details including

- Name
- Date
- DP#
- BAC Reading
- Officer Name, Rank and #
- Driver will also then be provided with a date for Court appearance



Refusal Of Breath Test

A driver who fails to provide a specimen of breath as requested by a police officer shall be guilty of an offence under the act and liable upon conviction to a fine of TT \$ 8,000 or 3 years imprisonment.

A police officer may arrest without warrant any driver Who fails to give a breath specimen but whom the officer Has reasonable cause to suspect that the person has a alcohol level over the prescribed limit.



What You Can Do

- Designate a Driver
- Plan ahead, use Taxi or Shuttle Services
- Space out drinks at most 1 per hour
- Eat food if consuming alcohol especially protein
- Stop consuming any alcohol at least two hours before attempting to drive.
- Stop friends and family from driving if you know they may have consumed an excessive amount of alcohol and have to drive.
- If necessary spend the night at a hotel or friends house rather than risk the drive.

What is Alcohol?

- THREE COMMON TYPES

- Ø Ethyl (beverage)

- Ø Methyl (industrial)

- Ø Isopropyl (antiseptic)

- Alcohol is a colorless, odorless liquid.

- Must be mixed with something to produce smell



Alcoholic Beverages

DEFINITION OF ONE (1) DRINK

Ø12 oz BEER

Ø6 oz WINE

Ø1.5 oz 80 PROOF LIQUOR



One mixed drink with

- 1.5 fl oz (44 mL) of 80-proof liquor (such as vodka, gin, scotch, bourbon, brandy, or rum)



5 fl oz (148 mL)
of wine



12 fl oz (355 mL) of
beer or wine cooler



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WHAT IS YOUR B.A.C

Body Weight	NUMBER OF DRINKS				
	1	2	3	4	5
100	0.04	0.09	0.15	0.20	0.25
120	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.16	0.21
140	0.02	0.06	0.10	0.14	0.18
160	0.02	0.05	0.09	0.12	0.15
180	0.02	0.05	0.08	0.10	0.13
200	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.12

Figures are rounded to the nearest .01 – BAC's shown are approximate, since they can be affected by factors other than weight. (Age, Gender and Health)

A lower BCA can still impair the physical and mental abilities you need to drive safely. Your judgment, coordination and reaction times are dulled by alcohol. Research estimates that the risk of being involved in a fatal crash may be at least eight (8) times higher for a drunk driver than a sober one.

Sample Estimated Breath Alcohol Concentrations

- **150 lb** male that consumes two beers in one hour has a BAC of **-.027g/210L** that is equiv to **13 ug/100ml**
- Three beers in one hour **.052g/210L** is equiv to **25 ug/100ml**
- Four beers in one hour **.077g/210L** is equiv to **37 ug/100ml**

What is (Ethyl) Alcohol?

- Medically
 - Ø Alcohol is a Depressant Drug
 - Ø Acts as a depressant/numbing agent, slowing the activity of the brain and other nerve tissue
- Poison / Intoxicant
 - Ø Impairs judgment & muscular coordination
 - Ø Unconsciousness
 - Ø Death
- The degree of impairment relates to the concentration of alcohol in the blood



Ethyl Alcohol

- Liquid
- Evaporates easily, volatile
- Odorless
- Soluble in water
- Burns – turns into heat energy
- Is a food
- Is a drug - depressant
- Is a poison



How Your Body Reacts to Alcohol

BRAIN. Impaired function and judgment ability.

LUNGS. Infection; breathing can stop.

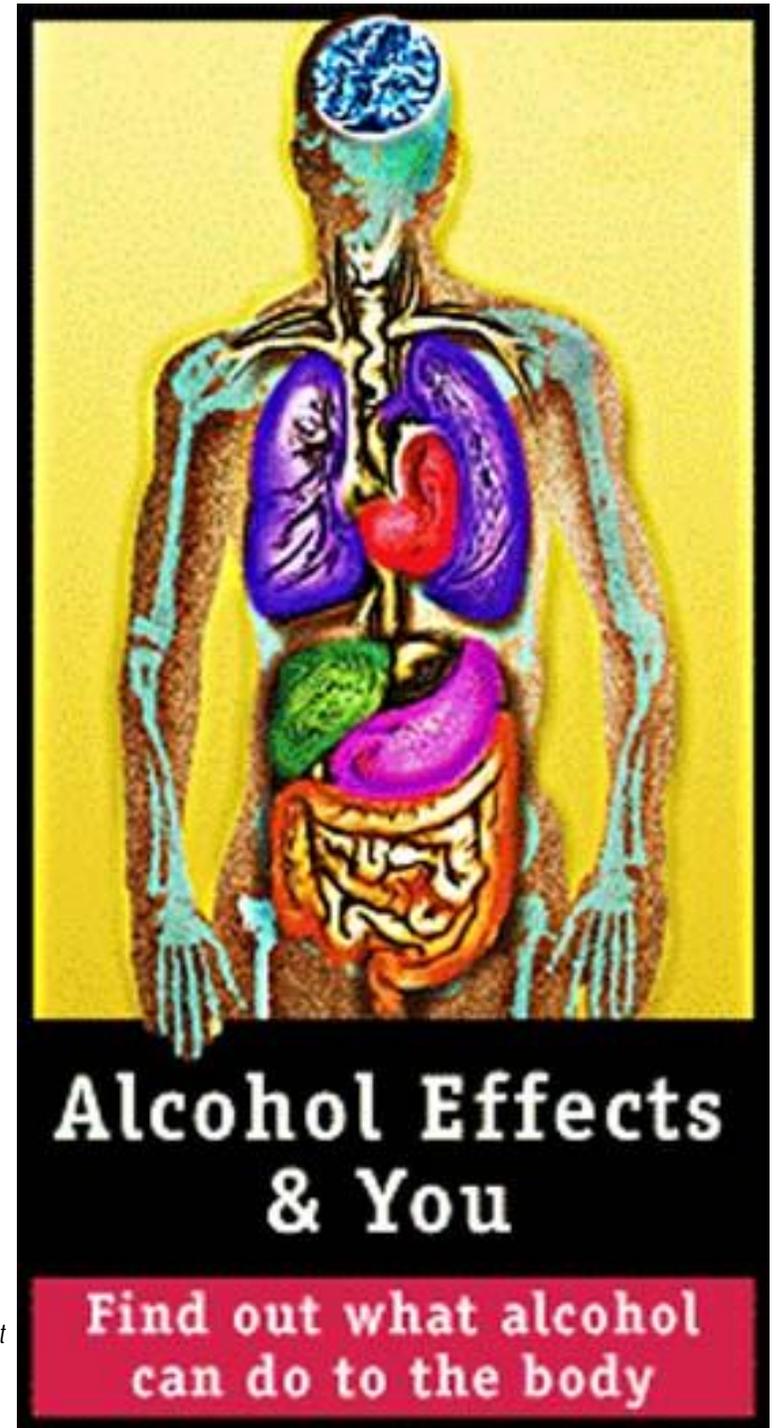
HEART. Irregular heartbeat.

LIVER. Alcoholic hepatitis and cirrhosis.

STOMACH. Irritation, peptic ulcers, bleeding lesions, cancer.

INTESTINES & PANCREAS. Intestinal tract and colon damage, inflammation, ulcers, and cancer.

BONES & MUSCLES. Weaker and thinner bones (osteoporosis); weaker and uncoordinated muscles.



Absorption of Alcohol in the Body

- Small amounts of alcohol are absorbed through the stomach walls into the bloodstream
- Some alcohol is broken down in the stomach
- Rapid absorption into the bloodstream occurs in the small or upper intestine
- Absorption is slowed when there is food in the stomach

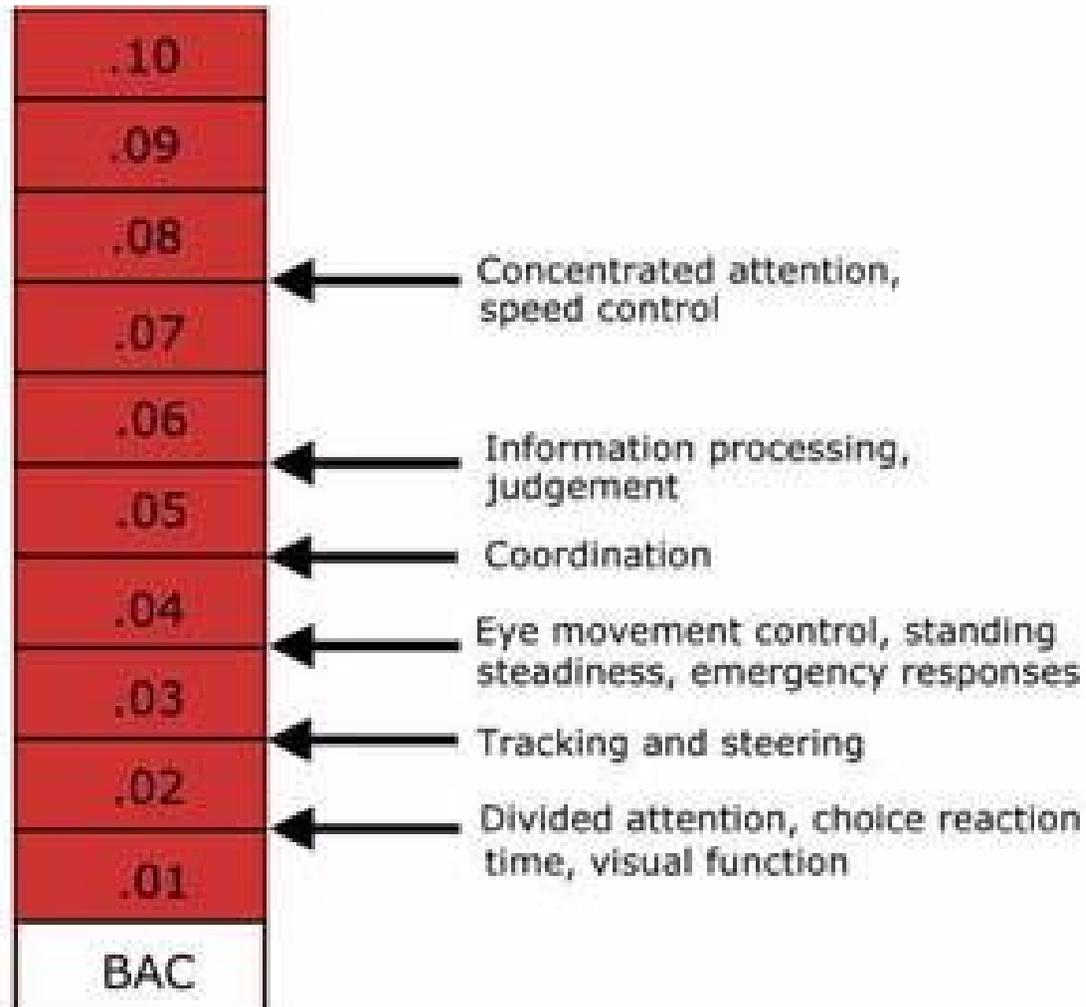


Elimination of Alcohol from the Body

- The liver oxidizes 80% of the alcohol introduced into the bloodstream
- The rest via sweat, urine, and breath
- Alcohol is a volatile (evaporates easily)
- Blood vessels in the lungs terminate in networks of capillaries in the walls of the alveoli
- Alcohol is transferred from the blood into the breath
- Alveolar breath contains $1/2100^{\text{th}}$ as much alcohol as there is in the blood



ALCOHOL & IMPAIRMENT



Myths & Facts About Alcohol

Myth: "I only had one drink."

Fact: One drink can be one too many, since alcohol absorption starts immediately. Several factors such as strength of drink, rate of consumption, body size/weight, food, gender, and drug use can affect the outcome of even one drink.

Myth: "I know when I'm too drunk to drive."

Fact: Your driving skills can be seriously compromised even when your behavior is not observably "drunk."

Myth: "Black coffee and fresh air will sober me up."

Fact: All the age-old remedies—black coffee, cold showers, fresh air, and exercise—are useless. Only time will sober you up.

Spread the Word

DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL
AND DRIVE

