

IMPACT DATA RECORDER - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

October 2026



Impact Data Recorder (IDR) – Frequently Asked Questions

Who can I contact if I have a question?

If you have any questions or need support regarding the implementation of the Impact Data Recorder, please contact our team at idr@motorsportuk.org.

What is the FIA IDR?

The FIA Impact Data Recorder (IDR) is a small, lightweight device fitted to your competition vehicle that records data when an impact occurs. It is designed by the FIA to improve safety across all levels of motorsport and is suitable for grassroots through to national competition.

Weight: 20g

Dimensions: 60mm x 45mm x 14.5mm

Material: Protective smart polymer

Unit life span: 2 year

Why are IDRs being introduced?

The IDR enables detailed crash data collection at all levels of our sport. This helps to improve safety standards, provides a better understanding of incidents, and supports evidence-based decisions on circuits, cars and safety equipment.

What does the IDR device do?

The IDR automatically records high-G impacts during an incident. It logs impact forces, captures multiple impacts, and stores data internally. Each device can record up to 80 incidents and operate for around 2 years without maintenance. It is always active and requires no input from the competitor.

How does the IDR work?

The IDR is a small unit attached using an adhesive pad. It requires no wiring, charging or connection to the vehicle. This 'fit and forget' approach ensures minimal burden on competitors. Devices must be installed in accordance with manufacturer instructions. When a vehicle with an IDR installed is involved in an accident, the impact data can be downloaded by an event official by scanning the unique QR code found on the front of the IDR to download the impact data.

Officials can then add supplementary information to the accident report such as photos, notes and medical information before submitting the report to Motorsport UK.

Motorsport receives the accident report and analyses the data to identify any trends or safety hazards.

How is the IDR data used?

After an incident, officials can scan the device using the FIA IDR app to download impact data from the vehicle. This information is then analysed to help improve safety across the sport by providing a better understanding of how incidents occur and how safety systems perform in real-world conditions. For example, the data may help identify when components such as seats or harnesses could have sustained damage, highlight areas where safety equipment or vehicle design may need improving, and provide valuable information to support broader risk analysis within motorsport and insurance sectors.

What do I need to do as a competitor?

Purchase your IDR from [Impact Detect](#). Once received, simply make sure your IDR is fitted correctly to your vehicle and that the 'IDR Inside' sticker is clearly visible. If you're involved in an incident, please allow officials to access the device so they can collect the data. Other than that, there's nothing you need to do as the IDR will work automatically in the background.

How do I install the IDR?

1. Identify a suitable area to affix your IDR; we suggest on the floor and as close to the centre of the cockpit as possible, such as under the seat in a formula car, or the transmission tunnel in a touring car.
2. Clean and degrease the chosen area to fit your IDR using a solvent degreasing solution or similar. Then remove the backing from the adhesive pad on the rear of the IDR and affix it to the chassis. Ensure that the tip of the IDR's arrow-shaped body is facing directly towards the front of the car.
3. Once your IDR is fitted, download the FIA IDR App on the App Store or Google Play. Once downloaded, select 'Activate IDR' in-app, enter your email address and scan the IDR's unique QR code using your phone's camera to activate it.
4. You will receive a notification when activation has been successful. You are now ready to use the FIA IDR App to monitor impact data, review reports, and enhance safety tracking.

View the Impact Detect fitting guides below:

- [Competitor Guide](#)
- [Car Fitting Guide](#)
- [Kart Fitting Guide](#)

What will the IDR cost?

The FIA IDR is available at a reduced cost of £38.40 (£32.00 excluding VAT), with Motorsport UK receiving no revenue from the device. Competitors with multiple vehicles must fit an IDR to each vehicle, and a future part-exchange and recycling programme is planned to support long-term use and sustainability.

I already have an IDR. How do I check it is still valid?

Those competitors who have competed internationally and may already have an IDR fitted, can check the date their device is valid to in the Impact Detect app. If you have any queries, please contact support@impactdetect.com.

If my IDR recorders no significant impacts, could this extend the lifespan of my seats, harnesses or other safety equipment?

The Impact Data Recorder will provide valuable data to support the ongoing inspection and review of safety equipment. However, there are currently no changes to the lifespan requirements already published within the National Competition Rules.

Why does the IDR have a two-year lifespan? What happens after two years and how much will a replacement cost?

The Impact Date Recorder incorporates a self-contained battery within the sealed unit. To keep the device as compact and cost-effective as possible, the battery is designed to provide a minimum service life of two years. A recycling programme will also be available, offering a discount on the purchase of a replacement device when an expired unit is returned.

Does the IDR contain GPS tracking? Does it transmit my location or other data continuously?

The IDR does not contain GPS tracking technology and does not track your vehicle's location.

Who can access the data recorded by an IDR, and how is it retrieved following an incident?

Officials can download the recorded information by scanning the QR code on the device following an incident. The data can be accessed by Motorsport UK's Safety and Technical Teams for further analysis.

If my vehicle already has a data logger, G-force sensor or tracking system, do I still need an IDR?

The IDR uses a refined accelerometer capable of measuring and analysing impact forces over a greater range and with greater precision than existing solutions. It has also been specifically designed to make it easier for officials to collect and transfer incident data to a central database for analysis.

Integrating this functionality with other devices would add significant complexity and make it more difficult to consistently capture and interpret data across the sport.

How does collecting impact data improve competitor safety, and what will Motorsport UK use the information for?

Collecting data from the IDR will help build a comprehensive understanding of the frequency and severity of incidents. This will allow us to make evidence-based decisions that support future risk management strategies and reviews of regulations. The information collected can also provide valuable insights to help medical personnel assess an occupant's condition and decide on the most appropriate response following an impact.

I own several competition cars, does every car need its own IDR?

Each vehicle must have an IDR correctly fitted, activated and in working condition when presented for scrutineering.

If you compete in more than one vehicle, you must ensure that each has an IDR installed before presenting your vehicle for scrutineering.

What was the outcome of the IDR consultation, and how did competitor feedback influence the final decision?

All feedback received during the consultation process was carefully considered by the relevant committees and the Executive. This input played an important role in informing the decision to introduce the IDR and helped refine the supporting information, guidance, and implementation plans associated with its rollout.

Who is responsible for checking that an IDR is fitted and activated before competition?

Scrutineers are responsible for checking that an IDR is correctly fitted and activated before a vehicle takes part in competition.

Scrutineers will receive continued training through Officials' Seminars and information through dedicated officials' bulletins. To find out more about the 2027 seminar dates, click [here](#).

Is the provided IDR adhesive mounting compliant with the National Competition Rules, and what will scrutineers check?

The adhesive mounting method for the IDR is fully compliant with the National Competition Rule requirements for an approved IDR device. Scrutineers may verify the device's location and installation, as well as confirm that it is present and functioning correctly in accordance with the regulations.

Do I need an IDR if I hold a Motorsport UK licence but compete abroad?

If you are competing outside Motorsport UK jurisdiction, you should check with the event organiser or the relevant ASN to confirm whether an IDR is required for that event.

What's the difference between the FIA and non-FIA IDR options, and which do I need?

There is no difference between the FIA and Motorsport UK IDRs. However, Motorsport UK units are available at a subsidised price for UK competitors. We recommend purchasing a Motorsport UK unit to ensure you benefit from the discounted price.

Do I need a smartphone to activate/use an IDR?

Yes, a smartphone is needed to activate your IDR. However, if you do not own a smartphone, you can use any compatible device to complete the activation. When activating your IDR, entering your email address will ensure you receive important updates about your device, including notifications when it needs replacing.

Can I buy multiple IDR devices?

Teams are limited to a maximum of 10 units per transaction. If you need more, please contact Impact Detect directly at order@impactdetect.com.