TITLE 13: DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Division 1, Chapter 1

Article 2 – Driver's License and Identification Cards

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

The Department of Motor Vehicles (department) proposes to amend Section 20.03, and adopt Sections 21.00, 21.01, and 21.02 in Article 2, Chapter 1, Division 1, Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, related to vision screening and driving performance evaluations.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing regarding this proposed regulatory action is not scheduled. However, a public hearing will be held if any interested person or his or her duly authorized representative requests a public hearing to be held relevant to the proposed action by submitting a written request to the contact person identified in this notice no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the close of the written comment period.

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

Any interested party or his or her duly authorized representative may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulations to the contact person identified in this notice. All written comments must be received at the department no later than **June 22, 2026**, the final day of the written comment period, for them to be considered by the department before it adopts the proposed regulation.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

The department proposes to adopt and amend these regulations under the authority granted by Vehicle Code section 1651, to implement, interpret, or make specific Vehicle Code sections 12804.9, 12805, 12814, and 12814.4.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Vehicle Code section 12804.9 requires a driver's license applicant, among other things, to pass a vision examination and demonstrate their ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in operating a motor vehicle.

Vehicle Code section 12814 authorizes the department to require an examination of an applicant in relation to evidence of a condition that may affect the ability of the applicant to safely operate a motor vehicle. Such evidence would be collected through the department's vision screening

process requiring a driver's license applicant to submit to vision screening in person at a field office, on a Report of Vision Examination, or through a letter prepared by the applicant's vision specialist. Applicants who fail vision screenings in a field office are referred to their vision specialist who will provide the department with a detailed description of the applicant's visual acuity, refraction, and information related to any vision condition the applicant may have, including the diagnosis, the prognosis, and an indication of whether the vision condition is stable (static) or progressive.

Certain visual conditions could impair a person's ability to drive safely. Depending on the severity of the vision condition, the functional impairment, and the stability of the condition, the department may require the applicant to submit to a driving evaluation that allows them to demonstrate their ability to compensate for the vision condition and safely operate a motor vehicle.

Applicants with vision conditions who are not able to pass the vision screening standards provided in Section 20.03 are offered an opportunity to take a supplemental driving performance evaluation. This evaluation allows the applicant an opportunity to take a behind-the-wheel driving examination and demonstrate that they can compensate for the functional impairments of the vision condition while continuing to operate the vehicle in a safe manner. Applicants who successfully pass the SDPE will be granted a limited term driver's license.

Applicants who are unable to pass the SDPE also have an option of taking an area driving performance evaluation. This option allows the driver to take the behind-the-wheel driving examination in a limited, pre-determined area in which the driver would feel most comfortable driving, such as areas near the applicant's home. If passed, the applicant's driver's license would be limited to the area in which the driving evaluation was administered.

The department is proposing to amend Section 20.03 to remove an ambiguous reference to a "drive test" and replace with the clarified term of "supplemental driving performance evaluation." The department is also proposing to adopt section 21.01 to provide a description of the driving performance evaluations as well as the circumstances under which the department will issue the applicant a full term driver's license or a limited term driver's license.

Vehicle Code section 13953 authorizes the department to revoke the driver's license of a person who is unable to pass the driving performance evaluations. Section 21.02 is proposed for adoption to establish the process when the department issues an order of suspension/revocation.

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

This action will benefit the welfare and safety of California residents by establishing an evaluation structure that strengthens the department's vision screening and examination process to ensure applicants with vision conditions are sufficiently screened prior to issuing a driver's license.

CONSISTENCY AND COMPATIBILITY WITH STATE REGULATIONS

The department has conducted a review of other agency regulations and has determined these regulations represent the only rules related to vision screening and examination requirements for California drivers with vision conditions. Therefore, the department has determined this action is neither inconsistent nor incompatible with other state regulations.

COMPARABLE FEDERAL STATUTES OR REGULATIONS

The department conducted a review of applicable federal statutes and has determined there are no comparable federal statutes or regulations related to vision standards for driver's licenses.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents are incorporated by reference:

- Report of Vision Examination, form DL 62, (Rev. 9/2025)
- Vision Conditions and Actions Chart (Rev. 8/2014)

The form and chart are not published in the California Code of Regulations because it would be impractical and cumbersome to do so; however, the documents are readily available to interested parties by contacting the department representative identified below.

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT DETERMINATIONS

- Cost Or Savings to Any State Agency: None.
- Other Non-Discretionary Cost or Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- Costs or Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- Cost Impact on Representative Private Persons or Businesses: The department is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. This proposed action clarifies procedures related to vision screening and driving examinations due to vision conditions. There are no costs associated with this proposed action.

- Effect on Housing Costs: None.
- Local Agency/School District Mandates: The proposed regulatory action will not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts, or a mandate that requires reimbursement pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code.
- Small Business Impact: This proposed action will not impact small businesses. This proposed action clarifies procedures related to vision screening and driving examinations due to vision conditions. The provisions only impact individual drivers. There are no impacts to small businesses.
- Potential significant statewide adverse economic impact: The proposed regulatory action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. This proposed action is related to vision screenings and vision examinations for California drivers and have no impact on businesses.

ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(Government Code section 11346.3)

In considering this proposed regulatory action, the department has determined this action will not impact, 1) the creation or elimination of jobs within the state of California, 2) the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state of California, 3) the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state of California, or 4) the health of California residents, worker safety, or the state's environment.

This action will benefit the welfare and safety of California residents by establishing an examination structure strengthens the department's vision screening and examination process to ensure applicants with vision conditions are sufficiently screened prior to issuing a driver's license.

DEPARTMENTAL DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 11346.2(b)(3) THROUGH (b)(5)

- Studies, Reports or Documents - Government Code section 11346.2(b)(3): None.
- Reasonable Alternatives and Department's Response – Government Code section 11346.2(b)(4)(A): No alternatives were presented that would be as effective.

- Reasonable Alternatives That Would Lessen Any Adverse Impact on Small Business – Government Code section 11346.2(b)(4)(B): No alternatives were presented that would lessen any adverse impact on small businesses.
- Evidence Supporting Determination of No Significant Adverse Economic Impact on Business – Government Code section 11346.2(b)(5): The department is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. This action establishes vision screening and driving examination requirements for applicants with vision conditions. None of the provisions impact businesses.

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

A pre-notice workshop, pursuant to Government Code section 11346.45, is not required because the issues addressed in the proposal are not so complex or large in number that they cannot easily be reviewed during the comment period.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The department must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the department or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the department would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, or would be effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provisions of law.

CONTACT PERSON

Any inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action may be addressed to:

Randi Calkins, Regulations Specialist

Department of Motor Vehicles

Legal Affairs Division

PO Box 932382, MS C-244

Sacramento, CA 94232-3820

Any inquiries or comments concerning the proposed rulemaking action requiring more immediate response may use:

Telephone: (916) 282-7294

Facsimile: (916) 657-6243

E-Mail: LADRegulations@dmv.ca.gov

In the event the contact person is unavailable, inquiries should be directed to the following back–up person:

Peggy Gibson, Attorney IV

Department of Motor Vehicles

Telephone: (916) 657-6469

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The department has prepared an Initial Statement of Reasons for the proposed regulatory action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based. The contact person identified in this notice shall make available to the public upon request the Express Terms of the proposed regulatory action using underline or italics to indicate additions to, and strikeout to indicate deletions from the California Code of Regulations.

The contact person identified in this notice shall also make available to the public, upon request, the Final Statement of Reasons and the location of public records, including reports, documentation and other materials related to the proposed action. In addition, the above-cited materials (the Notice of Proposed Regulatory Action, the Initial Statement of Reasons, and Express Terms) may be accessed at https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/about-the-california-department-of-motor-vehicles/california-dmv-rulemaking-actions/.

AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT

Following the written comment period, and the hearing if one is held, the department may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If modifications are made which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, the fully modified text, with changes clearly indicated, shall be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which the department adopts the resulting regulations. Requests for copies of any modified regulations should be addressed to the department contact person identified in this notice. The department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are first made available to the public.