Express Terms

Title 13, Division 1, Chapter 1

Article 2.0. Driver Licenses and Identification Cards

§ 20.03. Vision Screening.

(a) Individuals applying for or renewing a driver's license must submit to a screening of their eyesight and meet the department's vision screening standard:

(1) 20/40 with both eyes tested together, and

(2) 20/40 in one eye, and

(3) 20/70 at least, in the other eye.

(b) An applicant may comply with the vision screening requirement by one of the following methods:

(1) By submitting to a vision screening in person, at an office of the department.

(2) By providing the department with one of the following documents either in person or remotely through the department's internet website:

(A) A Report of Vision Examination, form DL 62 ~~(REV. 7/2024)~~(Rev. 9/2025), which is hereby incorporated by reference, signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, and dated within 6 months of the driver's license application date.

1. Applicants meeting the department's vision screening standard, as provided in subsection (a)(1) through (a)(3), are required to provide a form DL 62 with section 1 completed by the applicant, and the Visual Accuity and Signature section of section 2 completed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

2. Applicants not meeting the department's vision screening standard, as provided in subsection (a)(1) through (a)(3), are required to provide a form DL 62 with section 1 completed by the applicant and all of section 2 completed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

(B) A letter from the optometrist or ophthalmologist, that includes all of the following:

1. The address and telephone number of the optometrist or ophthalmologist.

2. The individual's full name and the date of birth.

3. The date the exam was given, which must be within 6 months of the driver's license application. The date of the exam must be within that time frame.

4. The individual's visual acuity measurement, verified to meet the department's vision screening standard, as provided in subsections (a)(1) through (a)(3). Individuals not meeting the department's vision screening standard must submit a ~~Report of Vision Examination,~~ form DL 62, as provided in subsection (b)(2)(A)2.

5. The optometrist or ophthalmologist signature and California optometry or medical license number.

(c) Individuals unable to pass the department's vision screening standards must comply with all of the following:

(1) Submit a form DL 62, as provided in subsection (b)(2)(A)2., signed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, dated within six months of the driver's license application date. The date of the exam must be within that time frame.

(2) Successfully pass a Supplemental Driving Performance Evaluation (SDPE), as defined in Section 21.00 of this Article, Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations, ~~vision drive test~~ to determine whether the individual can operate a motor vehicle safely and that they are able to compensate for ~~with~~ the reported vision loss.

(3) Submit to more frequent vision screenings, as ordered by the department, to monitor a progressive vision condition every one to two years from the application date. The length of the limited term will be based on the individual's vision prognosis, the clinical visual acuity measurements, and the SDPE.

(d) The department shall not issue or renew a driver's license to an individual whose best corrected visual acuity is 20/200 or worse in that person's better eye, as verified by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. A person shall not use a bioptic telescopic or similar lens to meet the 20/200 visual acuity standards.

(e) An individual with a long-standing, static vision condition (including monovision) is not required to obtain a ~~Report of Vision Examination~~ form DL 62 for subsequent renewals if they meet the vision screening standard in the better eye and the department has documentation referenced in subsection (b)(2)(A), either on record or submitted at the time of application.

(f) Daytime driving restrictions may be imposed if any of the following;

(1) The vision specialist recommends no night driving on the DL 62.

(2) The individual wears bioptic telescopic lenses.

(3) The individual has a severe vision impairment of worse than 20/50 in both eyes.

(g) Daytime driving restrictions may be removed if all of the following;

(1) The vision specialist recommends night driving on the DL 62.

(2) The individual must pass a nighttime driving examination.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 12804.9, 12805, 12814 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code.

§ 21.00. Definitions Related to Driving Performance Evaluations.

(a) "Area Driving Performance Evaluation" or ADPE, is a department-administered driving evaluation within a specified area. The ADPE allows the department to determine whether the driver can safely operate a motor vehicle and to assess the driver's ability to compensate for the vision condition, within a specified area that is familiar to the driver. If the evaluation is successfully passed, the driver will be limited to driving within the specified area in which the driving evaluation was administered. An ADPE could be administered if the driver fails to pass the Supplemental Driving Performance Evaluation.

(b) "Full term license" is a driver's license that expires on the fifth birthday of the applicant following the date of issuance of the license.

(c) "Limited term license" is a driver's license that is valid for one or two years and expires on the first or second birthday of the applicant following the date of issuance of the license.

(d) "Critical driving error" is a dangerous driving maneuver that could potentially lead to an accident. Critical driving errors include, but are not limited to, striking an object or curb, disobeying traffic signs or lights, speeding, lane violations, or a circumstance where the examiner must intervene. A critical driving error will result in an immediate failure.

(e) "Daylight driving restriction" is a restriction placed on a driver's license that allows the driver to operate a vehicle only during daylight hours.

(f) "Minor driving error" is a driving error that does not pose an immediate safety risk but does indicate an area where the driver could continue to improve their driving skills. Twenty or more minor driving errors will cause an applicant to fail the driving performance evaluation.

(g) "Nighttime driving examination" is a department-administered driving evaluation that is conducted after sunset that the department will use to determine whether the driver can safely operate a motor vehicle during nighttime hours.

(h) "Progressive vision condition" is the status of an eye condition where the visual acuity, peripheral vision, and/or visual perception gradually worsen over time leading to the continued loss of vision.

(i) "Severe vision condition" is the status of an eye condition where the visual acuity is worse than 20/50 with both eyes.

(j) "Stable vision condition" is the status of an eye condition where the visual acuity, peripheral vision, and/or visual perception changes little over a period of time.

(k) "Supplemental Driving Performance Evaluation" or SDPE, is a department-administered driving evaluation that the department will use to determine whether the driver can safely operate a motor vehicle and assess the driver's ability to compensate for the vision condition.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 12816, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 12816, Vehicle Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 12804.9, 12805, 12814 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code.

§ 21.01. Driving Performance Evaluations.

(a) The department shall follow procedures established in the Vision Conditions and Action Chart (VCAC)(Rev. 8/2014), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The VCAC defines the vision conditions that may appear on a form DL 62, with an indication of whether the vision condition is stable or progressive and identifies the actions that may be taken based upon the DL 62 and the outcome of the Supplemental Driving Performance Evaluation (SDPE).

(1) If the vision condition is stable, a full term license will be granted upon successfully passing a SDPE, provided there are no other progressive vision conditions present.

(2) If the vision condition is progressive and the visual acuity measurement is not met, a SDPE will be required. A limited term license shall be granted for either one or two years if the SDPE is successfully passed and the term for the license will be determined based on the results of the SDPE.

(A) If the results of the SDPE is pass and the applicant has zero to ten minor driving errors during the test, a limited term driver's license of two-years will be issued to the applicant from the application date.

(B) If the results of the SDPE is pass and the applicant has 11 – 19 minor driving errors during the test, a limited term driver's license of one year will be issued to the applicant from the application date.

(C) If the applicant makes twenty or more minor driving errors or one critical driving error, the applicant will have failed the driving performance evaluation.

1. If an applicant fails the SDPE, they can take another SDPE or they can choose to take an Area Driving Performance Evaluation (ADPE). An ADPE will be scored using the same criteria as provided in subsections (a)(2)(A) through (C). However, if passed, the applicant's driver's license will only be valid within the limited area in which the driving performance evaluation was given.

(3) An individual with a long-standing, stable (static) vision condition (including monovision) is not required to obtain a form DL 62 for subsequent renewals if they meet the vision screening standard in the better eye and the department had documentation referenced in Section 20.03(b)(2)(A), either on record or submitted at the time of application.

(b) If progressive and stable vision conditions are both diagnosed on a form DL 62, the progressive condition(s) supersedes the stable condition(s).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 12804.9, 12805, 12814 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code.

§ 21.02. Suspension and/or Revocation.

(a) An order of suspension or revocation will be warranted if the SDPE is failed three times, if the ADPE is failed once, or the vision condition is progressive and the driver is unable to compensate for the vision condition. The order of suspension or revocation will become effective 30 days after the date of the order. The driver may request a hearing after receiving a notice of suspension or revocation.

(b) An immediate revocation is imposed pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 13953 after an examiner administers a SDPE or ADPE to a low-vision driver who has failed the evaluation by making critical driving errors or has otherwise operated the motor vehicle in a manner where immediate action is necessary for the safety of the driver, pedestrians, and other motorists.

(c) A driver who receives an order of suspension or revocation may request a hearing after receiving the order.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1651 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code. Reference: Sections 12804.9, 12805, 12814 and 12814.4, Vehicle Code.