



Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
**Policy 23.00 Medical / Vision Examination
Requirements and Behavior Reports**

Section: 1. Issuance of Driver's License

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Authority:

[R.S. 32:403.1](#)

[R.S. 32:403.2](#)

[R.S. 32:403.4](#)

[R.S. 32:409.1 \(A\)\(3\)](#)

[R.S. 32:403.3](#)

[R.S. 32:414 \(E\)](#)

[R.S. 32:424](#)

[R.S. 40.1356](#)

To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

General:

- When the Department suspects a physical or mental infirmity or disability that would constitute grounds for refusal of a driver's license, the Department may conduct an investigation to determine whether the driving privileges should be suspended or denied. An applicant for a Class E or D driver's license must meet a minimum distant visual acuity standard reading.
- **Disclosure of Medical / Vision Information:** Medical Information - Information that is contained on the medical examination form shall not be disclosed to any third party without the written consent or waiver from the individual whose record is being reviewed. A written waiver shall be valid for a single request for medical information and shall not be valid for multiple or ongoing requests.
- **Disclosure of Driver Behavior Report Information:** Driver Behavior Report - Form DPSMV 3005 or its equivalent is not considered a public record. The Department will not divulge any information contained in the reports regardless if the case is outstanding or closed. The licensed driver must seek an order from a court of competent jurisdiction for the release of the name of the reporting individual.
- **Medical Examination Form ([DPSMV2302](#)) :** The medical examination form provides medical information concerning an applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
 - The medical examination form must have all sections that apply to the driver's condition completed in its entirety and address the medical concern(s) for which it was required.
 - The form must be returned within 30 days from the DATE ISSUED. Failure to comply will result in the suspension of the driving privileges.
 - The form is considered valid only if the date of the physician's signature has not exceeded 60 days.

- **Vision Examination Form (DPSMV 2301):**
 - The vision form provides medical information regarding visual acuity as reported by either an Optometrist (Vision Specialist) or an Ophthalmologist.
 - The vision examination form must be completed in its entirety and must address the acuities in the left eye, right eye and both eyes.
 - The form must be returned within 30 days from the DATE ISSUED. Failure to comply will result in the suspension of the driving privileges.
 - The form is considered valid only if the date of the physician's signature has not exceeded 60 days.
- **Note:** The CDL Medical Examiner's Certificate must also be submitted if the applicant holds a Commercial Driver's License.
 - **Driver Behavior Report (DPSMV 3005):** This report may be used by courts, law enforcement agencies, health care provider, the Office of Motor Vehicles employees, or family members to report a suspected unsafe driver.
 - The report must be completed in its entirety and must contain firsthand knowledge of the driver's behavior or medical / physical condition, which may render him unable to safely operate a motor vehicle. If a report is submitted by a 3rd party, the report must be forwarded up the chain of command for review.
 - Reports submitted by courts or law enforcement officers must identify the specific court, law enforcement officer or agency.
 - **Eligibility for Hardship License:** There are no provisions for the issuance of a hardship license to a physically or mentally challenged applicant whose driver's license has been suspended.
 - **Methods of Compliance:** The applicant must furnish the Department with a satisfactory medical statement(s) and/or pass a special driver's license examination.

Procedure

- At the discretion of the MVCA, a Medical/ Vision Examination Form (DPSMV2015) may be requested before issuance of a license. When a Medical is requested of a CDL applicant, the CDL Medical Examination Report is also required.
- **Field Requesting and Processing Medical / Vision Examination Form:**
 - The MVCA must complete the section of the form "**TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**" in its entirety when issuing the medical form to an applicant including "Remarks" section indicating why the medical is being issued. The "Remarks" section must show cause/justification of why medical required and reference the sections needing to be completed.
 - The original form is given to the applicant with instructions that the form(s) must be returned within 30 days from the "**DATE ISSUED**" and must be filled out by the treating physician. Failure to comply will result in the suspension of the applicant's driving privileges. The MVCA will immediately fax a copy of the completed form to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk at 225-925-3977.
 - Upon receipt of the faxed medical/vision form, the Medical Unit will add a pending medical line to the LS00 to avoid the customer going into a different Field Office for issuance of his driver's license.
 - If the completed medical form is returned within 30 days, the application can be processed according to policy (the only portion that must be completed is the section regarding the applicant's condition in question. If it's mental then the other sections do not need to be completed, etc.).

- When the applicant returns the medical form to the office, the form must describe any disability noted. If insufficient information is contained in the form, it must be returned to the applicant requesting the physician to complete the form in its entirety. The Office Supervisor / Manager may use discretion to grant an extension if deemed necessary; however, this information must be noted in the "Remarks" section on the copy and re-tickled for the extended date. An extension should not be granted for more than 15 days from the original tickle date. However, if a new medical is requested from another physician then the period starts over by allowing them 30 days to return the form.
- The medical form must address the medical concern(s) for which it was required and must be dated within 60 days from the date received from the Department.
- The physician's opinion of the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is desired but not required unless the customer has syncope/blackouts or has had a seizure within one year.
- If the medical information provided on the form meets the criteria necessary for the safe operation of a motor vehicle, the MVCA will call the Medical Line at 225-925-3929 requesting removal of the pending flag. The MVCA may proceed with one or any combination of the following: medical/vision form(s), written test, and road skills test. (See "Evaluation of Medical Form") in this policy. If the medical form indicates that the vehicle must be specially equipped due to physical disability or that hand controls are required, a road skills test must be administered.
- Upon receipt of the completed Medical/Vision Examination Form, the MVCA is required to test the applicant's vision and or administer a road skills test if deemed necessary. If the medical indicates additional restrictions be placed upon the applicant's license, they must be added upon issuance. Remember, additional restrictions may be added above and beyond the medical recommendation due to the road skills test, etc. (Reminder, the only portion that needs to be completed is the section regarding the driver's condition),
- If the report indicates that the applicant cannot safely operate a motor vehicle, a driver's license will not be issued. All disapproved medical forms must be forwarded to Headquarters marked "Attention: Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for further processing."
- **Medical Unit / CDL Help Desk** - In general, the same rules for requesting and processing medical forms in the field offices apply to Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk. The exceptions are listed below.
 - The original medical form is attached to correspondence indicating that the report must be returned within 30 days from the "**DATE ISSUED**" and that failure to comply will result in the suspension of the driving privileges. The file is to be tickled on Image for 45 days (15 days allowed for mailing and scanning).
- If the applicable portion of the medical/vision **form is completed and returned within 45 days**, it will be processed according to policy. If the applicable portion of the medical/vision form is not returned by the 45th day, suspend the driving privileges immediately and send the Official Notice of Withdrawal (ONOW).
 - The Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk will review all reports to determine if the applicant is currently licensed. If a license has not been issued, a pseudo number must be assigned for future tracking.
 - If the attending physician / specialist indicates that the applicant cannot safely operate a motor vehicle, his driving privileges will be suspended and the Official Notice of Withdrawal will be sent. The file will be presented to the Medical Advisory Board for review only if there's a discrepancy.
 - If the form does not indicate 'yes' the applicant can safely operate a motor vehicle, the file should be evaluated according to policy.

- If a physician or the Medical Advisory Board, recommends periodic evaluations, the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk must tickle the file for the date required (the tickle date needs to be 60 days prior to the due date to allow enough time for the driver to have his physician complete the form and submit it back prior to the due date). If the required reports have not been received by the tickle date, the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk will notify the applicant that the form must be returned within 30 days from the date of the notice. The driving privileges are to be suspended on all untimely or unacceptable forms. If the report is returned, it will be evaluated based on policy. The driving record must be updated accordingly and correspondence must be directed to the applicant advising him of the status of the driving privileges and any other requirements.
- Evaluation of Medical / Vision Form: Each medical form is to be evaluated on a case by case basis, paying close attention to the Physician's recommendations.
 - **History Section:** Summary of past health status.
 - **Orthopedic Section:** Provides information regarding the skeletal system. The MVCA should pay close attention to the physician's comment(s) as to whether the applicant has an amputated or missing limb or skeletal deficiency that can interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle. A road skills test may be warranted and applicable restrictions applied.
 - If orthopedic appliances or supports are used, the MVCA must determine appropriate restrictions under [Section 1, Policy/Procedure #13](#) or whether the license is to be denied. (See "restrictions 05, 06, 09, 32,33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 40".) Denial of the driver's license is to be based on the applicant's ability to pass a road skills test.
 - **HQ-** Correspondence will be sent scheduling a driver exam after reviewing the medical examination finding that orthopedic appliances or supports are used.
 - **Hearing Section:** Provides information regarding hearing abilities.
 - An applicant with a hearing disability which could prevent him from hearing automobile horns or emergency vehicles must receive appropriate restrictions as specified under [Section 1, Policy/Procedure #13](#). (See "restrictions 03, 09, 10,11, 41, 73 and 74".) If the applicant is deaf or suffers from hard of hearing, then the physician needs to indicate which one on the MEDICAL/VISION EXAMINATION FORM
 - **Cardiopulmonary Section:** Provides a history of hyper/hypotension (blood pressure), cardiac, or respiratory disorders.
 - If there is a possible or definite problem with fixed hypertension, it must be sufficiently explained in the remarks section. If it is not explained, the case should be forwarded to the Office Supervisor for further review.
 - If there is any indication of "dyspnea" (labored breathing caused by a heart condition), "angina" (chest pain), "syncope" (fainting or loss of consciousness and/or a sudden loss of strength), or "dizzy spells" on the report and the attending physician **does not indicate** the applicant could safely operate a motor vehicle, the form must be forwarded to the Driver Fitness & Follow-Up Unit for further processing.
 - **HQ -** The Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk will request a report from an internist if one of the following is indicated:
 - "dyspnea or angina" - a cardiac report from an internist or a specialist with a recommendation as to the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

- "syncope or dizzy spells" - a cardiac, neurological and metabolic report from an internist or specialist with a recommendation as to the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- If the internist or specialist(s) indicates the applicant can safely operate a motor vehicle, the form is to be considered acceptable and a clearance letter issued. If the internist or specialist(s) does not indicate that the applicant can safely operate a motor vehicle, the case will be presented to the Medical Advisory Board for review.
- A yearly follow-up will be required for two consecutive years following the medical clearance on all cases in which the physician/internist/specialist(s) indicates "syncope".
- **Neurological Section:** Provides medical information relative to the nervous system. This may include various forms of epilepsy, Parkinsonism, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, closed head injuries, traumatic brain injuries, etc.
 - If the form reveals that, an applicant has had an epileptic seizure or a nocturnal seizure within the last six months, the driver's license cannot be renewed or issued until the applicant has had a six-month seizure free period.
 - **HQ** - All medical forms must be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for suspension of the driving privileges and issuance of the Official Notice of Withdrawal if: (1) the form indicates that the applicant has not been seizure free for six months from the date the physician completed the form, or; (2) the physician recommends that the applicant be re-evaluated, or; (3) the medical form does not indicate if the applicant can safely operate a motor vehicle.
 - A yearly follow-up will be required for two consecutive years following the medical clearance on all cases involving seizures.
- **Mental Section:** Provides medical information pertaining to or relating to mental disorders.
 - If the medical report indicates the diagnosis of a mental disorder(s) by a physician, psychologist or psychiatric social worker, a second opinion is required from a psychiatrist. The first form must be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk. The driver's license cannot be issued or renewed.
 - If the report is from a psychiatrist and indicates that the applicant can safely operate a motor vehicle, the driver's license may be approved provided there is no adverse opinion by a physician, psychologist or psychiatric social worker. If the report is not specific, it should be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for further processing.
 - **HQ** - If the psychiatrist does not indicate that the applicant can safely operate a motor vehicle, the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk will prepare the case is to be presented to the Medical Advisory Board for review.
- **Diabetes Section:** Provides medical information pertaining to the severity of diabetic problems.
 - If the medical form discloses a diagnosis of diabetes mellitus, the physician's statements and recommendations are to be the primary factors to consider in the evaluation. Unless the physician indicates an obvious hazard such as abnormal loss of consciousness or unstable vision, the application should be approved.
- **Vision Section:** Provides information regarding visual acuity.
 - Applicants with acceptable vision in only one eye are subject to the same standards as applicants with acceptable vision in both eyes. Hereafter, for the purpose of the "Vision Section" of the policy (class "D" or "E" license only), the term visual acuity refers to the vision in the better eye.

- If visual acuity is worse than 20/40 with correction in both eyes, and the physician's not a vision specialist, the applicant must have the vision portion #4 on the MEDICAL/VISION EXAMINATION FORM completed in its entirety.
- **Release Section:** Serves as the applicant's authorization to the physician to release medical information to the Department.
- **Signature Section for the physician or ophthalmologist/optometrist:** Includes opinion of patient's driving ability, general remarks, physician's signature, name, address, and telephone number.

Notes:

- Medicals are usually valid for a period not to exceed 2 years, However, a medical may be accepted for less than 2 years as long as the applicant does not have a disqualifying condition. Example: The doctor may only want to certify the driver for one year and requires the driver to return each year thereafter OR the driver has medical problems that are not disqualifying but do require routine checks and the doctor will only certify for a short period of time.
- It is the driver's responsibility to maintain a valid, current medical certificate/card during the duration of his license.
- It is the driver's responsibility to provide a copy of each new medical card to OMV prior to the expiration of the current medical card.
- Applicants shall submit a valid medical examiner's certificate at every renewal and shall carry a current medical certificate (card) on their person at all times when driving a commercial vehicle.
- In some cases, a class D operator will fall under federal guidelines and will be required to meet the physical requirements by having on his person a valid CDL medical. However, the Office of Motor Vehicles does not require Class D drivers to present the medical. Class D drivers should call DOTD (225-389-1100) to obtain the requirements for DOTD physicals and/or logbooks.
- If a medical/vision form is requested on a CDL holder, then the long form medical is required as well.
- **Additional Processing Information for CDL Medical Examination Form:** Prior to August 31, 1994, if a driver had been employed as a commercial motor vehicle operator for a minimum of 24 months immediately prior to March 31, 1992, such driver is exempt from complying with Sections 91.41(b)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (10) and (11). Restrictions 43 and 53 will be entered in the restriction field on the driver's license. This limits the driver to operating a commercial motor vehicle for intrastate driving only. However, such a driver may remain qualified only as long as a medical examiner determines during the biennial medical examination required in 49 CFR Part 391.45, that the existing medical or physical condition that would otherwise render a driver unqualified has not significantly worsened or that another disqualifying medical or physical condition has not manifested. The medical examiner's certificate must display upon its face the inscription "MEDICALLY UNQUALIFIED OUTSIDE LOUISIANA."
- **As of August 31, 1994, there is no Intrastate Medical Waiver Program. Medically unqualified applicants cannot be issued a first time CDL. Applicants who develop any of the disqualifying medical conditions listed above cannot renew their CDL with an intrastate medical waiver restriction. However, an applicant may renew a CDL with an existing intrastate medical waiver restriction.**
- If an applicant downgrades from a CDL with an intrastate medical waiver restriction, he may renew the CDL with the intrastate medical waiver restriction provided his medical condition has not worsened.

- If a medically unqualified form is submitted for a first time CDL applicant or a CDL driver who develops certain disqualifying medical conditions, the form shall be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for further processing. The applicant's driving record will indicate "**MED UNQUAL/CDL**" in the address field. A CDL driver's license shall not to be issued.
- **Requesting and Processing Medical / Vision Examination Form:**
 - If an applicant does not meet the 20/40 "overall" (both eyes) he must complete the MEDICAL/VISION EXAMINATION FORM.
 - The MVCA must complete the section of the report "**TO BE COMPLETED BY OFFICE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**" in its entirety. The results of the vision reading as taken by the MVCA must be indicated on the form.
 - The original vision examination form is given to the applicant with instructions that the report(s) must be returned within 30 days from the "**DATE ISSUED**" and that failure to comply will result in the suspension of the driving privileges.
 - Upon receipt of the faxed medical/vision form, the Medical Unit will add a pending medical line (if the dl is expired and only the vision section of the form is requested to be completed, we will not add a line because the applicant must pass the vision portion before the dl can be renewed) to the LS00 to avoid the customer going into a different Field Office for issuance of their driver's license.

- If the applicable portion of the medical/vision form is returned within 30 days, the MVCA will call the Medical Line at 225-925-3929 and request removal of the pending flag. The application shall be processed according to policy.
- The form must address the acuities in the left eye, right eye and both eyes.
- The form must contain the physician's signature, name, address and telephone number and must be dated within 60 days from the date received from the Department.
- The physician's opinion of the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is desired but not required.
- If the vision information meets criteria necessary for the safe operation of a motor vehicle, the MVCA may proceed with further license testing.
- If the form indicates that the applicant **cannot** safely operate a motor vehicle, the driver's license shall not be issued. All disapproved vision examination forms must be forwarded to Headquarters marked "Attention: "Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk" for further processing.
- **Evaluation of Medical / Vision Examination Form (DPSMV2015):**
 - Applicants with acceptable vision in only one eye are subject to the same standards as applicants with acceptable vision in both eyes. Hereafter, for the purpose of this policy (Class "D" or "E" license only), the term visual acuity refers to the vision in the better eye.
 - Upon receipt of the completed form, the MVCA must test the applicant's eyes.
 - If the MVCA detects a discrepancy in the re-test as compared to the specialist's findings (i.e. MVCA findings are worse than 20/40 in both eyes), the form must be referred to the Office Manager. The Office Manager will contact the specialist to confirm the accuracy of the visual acuity indicated on the vision statement and note the conversation on the application. At the discretion of the Office Manager, a driving test may be administered. The driver's license may be issued or renewed if the specialist confirms the accuracy of the examination.
 - If the form indicates that the applicant's visual acuity:
 - Is 20/40 or better, the license may be issued.
 - Cannot be improved better than 20/50 to 20/70, the applicant may be given limited driving privileges according to restrictions recommended by the vision specialist.
 - If the specialist does not recommend any restrictions, a road skills test will be administered. A 01 Corrective lens restriction will be given in addition to other restrictions as deemed necessary?
 - Is 20/80 to 20/100, the applicant will be administered the road skills test. Limited driving privileges may be given with appropriate restrictions as recommended by the vision specialist and/or the MVCA. If the application is denied, the form must be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for suspension of the driving privileges;
 - Is 20/200 or worse, the application will be denied. The form must be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for suspension of driving privileges.

Restrictions:

- The following restrictions will apply if the applicant is required to submit a periodic vision medical. A copy of the vision examination form along with the computer card must be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk. The Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk will then tickle the file to assure the vision examination is requested and submitted timely.
 - "24" - exam every 6 months
 - "25" – yearly exam

- "26" – exam every 2 years
 - "72" – exam every 4 years
- An 04 restriction (eyes cannot be improved) should only be added if it is recommended by the vision specialist.
- The MVCA may add any restriction(s) that is deemed necessary in addition to any restriction(s) recommended by the vision specialist.
- **Bioptic Telescopic Lens Vision Examination Form (DPSMV 2008):** This form is for an applicant, using Bioptic Telescopic Lenses, who may be eligible for a driver license if certain criteria are met. (Refer to Section 1 Policy #9.01 Bioptic Telescopic Lens.)
- **Additional Processing Information:**
 - The Department may accept other reports from physicians, vision specialists, neurologists, etc. which may provide additional information necessary for proper evaluation of a medical condition.
 - Supervisors/Managers may use discretion to grant any extension deemed necessary; however, this information must be noted. An extension should not be granted for more than 15 days from the original tickle date.
 - If it is not clear that the applicant meets the appropriate criteria or if the MVCA has any reasonable doubt that the applicant is fit to drive, the application must be rejected and forwarded to the next level of supervision for review.
 - In cases where an applicant had previously submitted an unsatisfactory form but within a period of a few days submitted a satisfactory one, the reports must be forwarded to the Office Manager for review. The Office Manager's written decision must be attached to the medical or vision form.
 - If a condition or illness is progressive, a periodic medical/vision examination and evaluation shall be required.
- **Driver Condition or Behavior Report (DPSMV 3005):** This form may be used by courts, law enforcement agencies, the Office of Motor Vehicles, and family members to report a suspected unsafe driver.

- **Processing Driver Condition or Behavior Reports:**
 - The form or its equivalent must be completed in its entirety and must contain the signature, printed name, and the residential and mailing address of the remitter. A telephone number is desired but not required.
 - Reports that are submitted by courts or law enforcement officers must identify the specific court, law enforcement officer or agency.
 - If an MVCA/Field initiates a Driver Condition or Behavior Report, it must be forwarded through the chain of command to the Field Administrator for final approval. Once approved, these complaints must be forwarded to Headquarters to be scanned to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk for processing.
 - If Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk receives a Driver Behavior report that was initiated by MVCA/Field which does not have the approval of the Field Administrator, the case is to be prepared and sent to the Supervisor who will forward to the Field Administrator for approval.
 - If a complaint is received from a 3rd party (citizen), it is to be prepared and sent to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk who, after review, will make a recommendation. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Medical Unit/CDL Help Desk Manager for a final determination.
 - A recommendation must be made as follows:
 1. No action.
 2. Require a medical examination form to be completed.
 3. Require a vision examination form to be completed by specialist.
 4. Require a written and/or road skills examination at a field office or a third-party tester for a skills test in the case of a class "A," "B," or "C" license.
 5. Any combination of numbers 2, 3, and 4.
- **Medical Advisory Board:** Louisiana Medical Advisory Board is made up of certified physicians appointed by the Governor, who volunteers their time for final disposition of questionable medical cases.
 - All medical cases previously denied by the Medical Advisory Board must be re-submitted to the Board for approval prior to reinstatement and licensing.
 - The Medical Unit/CDL PDPS Help Desk will direct correspondence to the applicant regarding any medical report being submitted to the Medical Advisory Board.
 - Employees assigned to attend the Medical Advisory Board meetings must maintain a log of the cases to be reviewed and explicit instructions of what the Board recommends on each case. A copy of the log must be filed with each case presented. As a result of the Board's review, one of the following actions may be taken:
 1. Approve reports to allow renewal or issuance of a driver's license.
 2. Suspend or deny driving privileges.
 3. Require applicant to pass a written and/or driving test. (Driving test for CDL holder must be scheduled with a third party tester.)
 4. Require applicant to submit an updated medical report from a specialist.