Section: 1. Issuance of Driver’s License

Effective Date: 05/01/1986

Revised Date: 01/11/2022

Authority:
R.S. 32:408
R.S. 32:408.1
R.S. 32:410 (A)(5)

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

Objective: This policy describes the requirements and procedures for screening applicants for the issuance of a driver’s license.

Definitions:

- **Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)** – A driver’s license issued by the state driver’s license agency, that specifically allows drivers to operate a commercial motor vehicle
- **Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP)** – “A permit that only authorizes a person to practice on public roads with a qualified CDL holder accompanying the driver”¹

Eligibility:
NA

General:

- **First Time Applicant (Never Licensed):** A first-time applicant for a Louisiana Operator’s License Classes E or D must:
  - Meet OMV identification requirements
  - Successfully pass the driver’s license examination consisting of the vision test, general knowledge test and the road skills test. The applicant may have an interpreter to translate for him during the examination process.²,³
  - Note: An applicant under the age of 17 must participate in the Graduated Licensing Program.
- **Out-of-State Transfers (Currently Licensed in Another State):** A first-time applicant for a Louisiana operator’s license (Class E or D) must:
  - Meet OMV identification requirements
  - Successfully pass the vision test
Applicants Under Eighteen (18) Years of Age
- An applicant under the age of 17 years must participate in the Graduated Licensing Program regardless of the fact that he may have had full driving privileges in his previous home state.

Applicants Sixteen (16) Years of Age - “Any applicant at least sixteen (16) years of age, but less than seventeen (17) years of age, moving into Louisiana from another state shall be eligible for the issuance of a Class “E” intermediate driver’s license, provided such applicant meets all other requirements for licensure in Louisiana and furnishes the Department with proof of successful completion of an equivalent driver’s education course and proof of issuance of a learner’s license for a minimum of 180 days, unless prior to such time the driver reaches seventeen (17) years of age, from the state of previous residence”.4

Transferring a Learner’s Permit - A person transferring a valid out of state learner’s permit, shall be issued a Louisiana’s learner’s permit with no knowledge test. However, if the applicant wishes to transfer a valid out of state permit and upgrade to a full license at the same time, he/she will be required to take a road skills test.

First Time CDL License:
- A first-time applicant for a CDL (Class A, B or C), except for valid out-of-state transfers, must pass all the required knowledge tests, either written or oral, a vision test and a skills test in a vehicle which is representative of the class of vehicle he/she operates or intends to operate.2
  - The skills test will be administered by an authorized Third-Party Tester.2,3
  - The applicant must first obtain a CLP in addition to a valid driver's license.

In Case of Emergency (ICE) Information:
- An applicant has the option to provide emergency contact information. This information will be contained in the motor vehicle record.5
- The ICE information will assist law enforcement and emergency personnel in notifying the contact individual in cases of emergency.5

Required Documentation:
- First Time Applicant (Never Licensed) - A first-time applicant for a Louisiana Operator's License Classes E or D must provide:
  - Appropriate driver education course certification
- First Time CDL License - The CLP/CDL applicant must provide proof that the individual is a resident of the state of Louisiana as per 49 CFR 383.71. Acceptable documentation includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - A Louisiana voter’s registration card
  - A Louisiana property tax receipt from the tax assessor’s office indicating the property owner is the same individual as shown on the exemption certificate.
  - A copy of a lease or rental agreement on property within the State of Louisiana, indicating the lessee is the same individual.
  - Utility statements (electric, gas, water, telephone, or cablevision) indicating the applicant's name and address.
  - A statement on letterhead stationery, from the postmaster in the city where the applicant resides verifying the mailing address of the applicant and stating that the applicant receives mail at that address.
  - W-2 Form reflecting the applicant's name and Louisiana address.
- A current health, home or personal vehicle insurance policy reflecting the name of the applicant and the applicant's Louisiana address.
- A copy of the current telephone statement listing the physical address and the individual's name.

**Fees:**
- For CDL applications, a fee of $15.00 will be charged.

**Related Policies:**
- Section 1, Policy 1.01 [Commercial Learner’s Permit](#)
- Section 1, Policy 6.00 [Identification Requirements](#)
- Section 1, Policy 18.00 [Out Of State Transfers](#)

**References:**