



**OHIO DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**
EDUCATION • SERVICE • PROTECTION

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The Eyes Have It...

**Information about
vision screening
when you obtain an
Ohio driver license**



Vision Screening Required by Law

Ohio law requires that you pass a vision screening test when you obtain or renew an Ohio driver license. This test indicates whether or not your vision is adequate for driving.

A deputy registrar license agency will issue your license only if you can pass a vision screening test and meet all other regular license requirements.

When is a Second Vision Screening Required?

If a vision problem is indicated by the first test, a second screening will be required at a State Highway Patrol exam station. If you are referred to a Patrol exam station, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) suggests you have a vision care specialist examine your eyes before the second vision screening.

If you do not pass the second screening test, your license will be retained by the examiner. You will not be permitted to drive until your vision is corrected by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Therefore, it is important that you take a licensed driver along with you to the Patrol exam station to drive you home just in case you don't pass this second test.

If you fail the second vision screening test and do not successfully pass another vision screening test within 30 days, your license will be forwarded to the BMV for cancellation.

Renew Without Delay

If you want to renew or obtain a driver license for the first time and pass the vision screening, now is the time to make sure your vision meets the standards for an Ohio driver license.

The eye standards include two aspects of your eyesight:

1. Acuity - sharpness of vision
2. Horizontal field - distance of space visible to either side of the eye while looking straight ahead

Based on the results of the vision screening test, you will be assigned to one of three driver license categories:

1. Unrestricted license
2. Restricted license
3. No license

Unrestricted License

An unrestricted license is issued to a person whose visual acuity is 20/40 or better without corrective lenses and who can see 70 degrees to each side while looking straight ahead.

Restricted License

A restricted license is issued to a person experiencing at least one of several different vision problems. Contact your optometrist or ophthalmologist for technical information regarding any vision conditions which may lead to a restricted license.

In most cases, eye conditions which require a restricted license may be remedied by corrective lenses (glasses or contact lenses) when operating a motor vehicle. Other restrictions may include driving only during daylight hours or inside/outside mirror requirements. In certain cases, more frequent eye screenings may be required.

These driving restrictions were established to ensure the public maximum safety while permitting the vast majority of Ohioans to enjoy the privilege of operating a motor vehicle.

No License

No license is issued to a person whose best visual acuity is worse than 20/70 in both eyes or worse than 20/60 if only one eye is functional, and whose visual field is less than 70 degrees on both sides.

Please note: Commercial drivers must meet slightly higher vision standards than those renewing or obtaining operator, motorcycle or motorized bicycle licenses.

Remember: If your vision is adequate before going to a deputy registrar license agency, you probably will not be referred to the Highway Patrol exam station for further testing. If you are referred for a second test, please remember to take a licensed driver with you.