

Mark Sanford
Governor



Marcia S. Adams
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State of South Carolina
Department of Motor Vehicles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DMV TO ISSUE 10-YEAR DRIVER'S LICENSE

Columbia, S.C. - September 26, 2003 - The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles announces the new 10-year driver's license available in DMV branch offices beginning October 1, 2003. The 10-year driver's license is part of the DMV initiatives made possible through the DMV Reform Act, which was signed by Governor Mark Sanford on June 2, 2003.

"The 10-year license is another way we are making it easier to do business with DMV," said Marcia Adams, DMV Acting Executive Director. "Being able to renew your license every 10 years rather than every five years will make it more convenient for our customers."

The new license, issued only in DMV branch offices, will be available for persons who are under the age of 65 and hold one of three license types:

- Class G moped license,
- Class D passenger vehicle license,
- Class M motorcycle license, or
- A combination of Class D and M license for both passenger vehicles and motorcycles.

"The 10-year driver's license will not compromise safety on South Carolina's roads and it will not affect the security of the credential," said Adams. "Drivers with a 10-year license will still have to submit to a vision screening during the fifth year of the renewal period and security measures will remain in place."

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To submit a vision screening, drivers may mail in a vision-screening certificate from their optometrist or ophthalmologist or visit a DMV office and take the eye exam. Persons who receive a 10-year drivers license will not be eligible to renew by mail or online for their next license renewal period. DMV requires a new photo for licenses every 10 years.

Licenses issued through the mail or online will continue to be issued for a five-year renewal period. The renewal periods for other credential issued by the department will not change. Non-United States citizens and persons who are licensed to operate a commercial vehicle are not eligible for a 10-year driver's license.

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