



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

CENTRAL ISSUANCE OF CREDENTIALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. What is central issuance?

A1. Central issuance is a change in the way the SCDMV produces and issues driver's licenses and identification cards. Instead of cards being produced in offices and given to you over the counter, driver's licenses and identification cards will be produced at a central location and mailed to you. This allows the agency to produce a more secure credential that better protects your identity.

Q2. Why is the SCDMV transitioning to central issuance?

A2. Central issuance increases the security of driver's licenses and identification cards issued by the department. The enhanced production process produces a stronger identity document that prevents identity theft by making the card harder to replicate by counterfeit manufacturers. More than 45 states and most federal agencies that issue identity documents utilize central issuance production methods for the credentials they issue.

Q3. When is the SCDMV transitioning its credential production to a centrally issued process?

A3. The agency expects to implement the new system in Fall 2025.

Q4. Will central issuance of credentials increase the cost of a South Carolina driver's license or identification card?

A4. No, you will receive the benefit of a stronger, more secure card, for the same price you currently pay.

Q5. Do I have to get a new card?

A5. No, previous South Carolina cards will still serve as valid forms of identification until they expire.

Q6. What do I do at an SCDMV office?

A6. The process of applying for driver's licenses and identification cards remains the same. You must bring identity documents when necessary and pass applicable knowledge and road tests when required.

Q7. Will I still be able to get a REAL-ID?

A7. Yes, the SCDMV will continue to issue all current types and classes of licenses including both those that are REAL IDs and ones that say "Not For Federal ID".

Q8. How long will it take to receive my centrally issued driver's license or identification card?

A8. Driver's license or identification cards will be processed and delivered to you within 7 to 15 business days from the application date. However, the SCDMV expects your card to reach you within one week.

Q9. Is there an expedited option to get my driver's license or identification card faster?

A9. No, the SCDMV will not offer an expedited service. The SCDMV encourages you to be mindful of your expiration date to ensure the card you hold does not expire before you obtain a new one.

Q10. What do I do in the interim while I'm waiting for my centrally issued driver's license or identification card?

A10. You will leave the SCDMV branch with a temporary driving certificate or temporary identification certificate and hole punched card (if applicable) to use while you wait for your new card.

Q11. What is a temporary driving certificate (TDC) and temporary identification certificate (TIC)?

A11. A temporary driving certificate (TDC) or temporary identification certificate (TIC) is a paper document that contains the same information as the physical card, including a photo. The TDC will be recognized by law enforcement as an authorized document for operating the class of motor vehicle reflected on the TDC. The TIC is for identification purposes only and does not provide driving privileges.



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Q12. If I lose my temporary certificate while waiting to receive my physical card, will the SCDMV issue me another one?

A12. Yes, the SCDMV will provide another temporary certificate at no cost, as long as your card has not yet been issued.

Q13. Who will accept my TDC/TIC?

A13. Temporary certificates are accepted by most state entities and will allow you to vote. However, acceptance of temporary certificates depends on the entity. The SCDMV is not responsible for businesses, wholesalers, or merchants who may refuse service or decline to accept a TDC or TIC.

Q14. Will the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) accept a TDC/TIC at airport security checkpoints?

A14. No, the TSA does not currently accept temporary certificates by themselves. However, the TSA does accept expired state-issued REAL ID driver's licenses or identification cards for up to two years past the expiration date. For this reason, the SCDMV will hole punch the expiring card and return it to you along with your temporary certificate.

Q15. How can I check the status of my card?

A15. You may check the status of your card by accessing the SCDMV website at scdmvonline.com or by scanning the QR code on your TDC/TIC.

Q16. Is my PII secure with the new mailing process? What if my card is lost or stolen in transit?

A16. Yes. The licenses and IDs are securely transported throughout the USPS system to arrive at your address. If it has been more than 30 days since applying for your driver's license or ID, first, using the QR code on your TDC/TIC, check the status of your printed card. If it says it has been mailed, contact the SCDMV using the instructions on the website. If the status is something other than mailed, your card has not yet been issued and you should continue using your temporary certificate. Please contact the SCDMV if it's been longer than 15 to 20 days since you applied for your card.

Q17. Will the SCDMV still offer online renewals or mail-in transactions?

A17. Yes, but when renewing online or by mail, you will not receive a TDC or TIC. There is no way to print a TDC/TIC from home nor receive one if you choose to process your transaction by mail. You will hold your current card until receiving your new card in the mail.

Q18. What is the suggested method of safely discarding my temporary certificate and hole-punched card?

A18. Upon receiving your card, you may immediately shred your temporary certificate and hole-punched card, ensuring all personal information is sufficiently destroyed.

Q19. If I obtain a TDC/TIC at an office that has converted to central issuance, then visit a non-converted office to obtain an over-the-counter card, what happens?

A19. All SCDMV offices will convert to central issuance over a two-week period in Fall 2025. Once you receive a TDC/TIC, you may not apply for another card until you receive your new card in the mail. Your temporary certificate and hole punched card (if applicable) can be used as valid identification until your new card arrives.