

1 Department of Public Safety

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3 Adopted Permanent Rules Governing Vision Requirements for

4 Driver's License Applicants

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6 Rules as Adopted

7 7410.2400 VISION.

8 Subpart 1. In general. Every applicant shall submit to a
9 vision screening or examination. The purpose of the vision
10 screening is:

11 A. to screen applicants to ensure that those with
12 insufficient vision take the steps required to achieve the best
13 vision possible; and

14 B. to deny driving privileges to those whose vision
15 is likely to interfere with the safe operation of motor vehicles.

16 Subp. 1a. Definitions. The terms used in this part have
17 the following meanings:

18 A. "Visual acuity" means acuteness or sharpness of
19 vision.

20 B. "Visual field" means the area within which an
21 object may be seen when the eye is fixed.

22 Subp. 2. Unrestricted/corrective lens restriction. The
23 applicant, if otherwise eligible, will be considered for an
24 unrestricted driver's license or a driver's license with a
25 corrective lens restriction if the applicant meets the following
26 visual standards:

27 A. visual acuity of 20/40 or better, with either one
28 usable eye or with both eyes, with or without corrective lenses;
29 and

30 B. visual field of 105 degrees or greater in the
31 horizontal diameter with either one usable eye or with both eyes.

32 If the applicant needs corrective lenses to meet the visual
33 acuity standards or if a licensed physician or an optometrist
34 recommends that the applicant wear corrective lenses, the
35 applicant must wear the corrective lenses while operating a

1 motor vehicle.

2 If a licensed physician or an optometrist recommends that
3 corrective lenses not be worn, the commissioner shall impose
4 suitable restrictions, if applicable, upon the applicant's
5 driving privileges.

6 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

7 Subp. 4. Vision examinations. An applicant shall submit a
8 vision examination certificate from a licensed physician or an
9 optometrist in a form as prescribed by the commissioner when:

10 A. the applicant disagrees with the results of the
11 screening;

12 B. the applicant's vision cannot be determined;

13 C. any court or police officer has recommended that
14 the applicant's vision be examined;

15 D. the commissioner has good cause to believe that an
16 examination is warranted;

17 E. the applicant has double vision;

18 F. the applicant's visual acuity is less than 20/40
19 with either one usable eye or with both eyes, with or without
20 corrective lenses; or

21 G. the applicant's visual field is less than 105
22 degrees in the horizontal diameter with either one usable eye or
23 with both eyes.

24 An applicant's vision examination must have been conducted
25 within six months of completion of the vision examination
26 certificate.

27 Subp. 5. Restricted license; vision requirements. If
28 otherwise eligible, and subject to subpart 5a, an applicant will
29 be issued a restricted license to drive if the applicant has:

30 A. visual acuity of 20/50 or less corrected vision with
31 either one usable eye or with both eyes; or

32 B. visual field of less than 105 degrees in the horizontal
33 diameter with either one usable eye or with both eyes.

34 Subp. 5a. Restricted license; driving restrictions. An
35 applicant eligible for a restricted license under subpart 5
36 shall comply with the applicable restrictions on driving

1 described in items A to E.

2 A. Speed restrictions.

3	20/50	55 miles per hour
4	20/60	50 miles per hour
5	20/70	45 miles per hour

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7 B. Restriction as to type of road. An applicant

8 subject to speed restrictions under item A may also be
9 restricted to those roads having a maximum speed limit equal to
10 the maximum speed limit imposed upon the applicant, if the
11 commissioner determines that the restriction is necessary for
12 the safety of the applicant and the public. A person limited to
13 a maximum speed of 45 m.p.h. or less is prohibited from driving
14 on any freeway, expressway, or limited access highway that has a
15 speed limit of more than 45 m.p.h.

16 C. Area restrictions. An applicant with visual
17 acuity of 20/50 or less corrected vision may be restricted to
18 driving within an area to be determined by the commissioner, if
19 the commissioner determines that the restriction is necessary
20 for the safety of the applicant and the public.

21 D. Daylight restriction. An applicant with visual
22 acuity of 20/50 or less corrected vision may be restricted to
23 daylight hours to be determined by the commissioner if the
24 commissioner determines that the restriction is necessary for
25 the safety of the applicant and the public.

26 E. Equipment restriction. An applicant with a visual
27 field of less than 105 degrees in the horizontal diameter with
28 either one usable eye or with both eyes must be restricted to
29 driving with left and right outside rearview mirrors or
30 restrictions in items A to E, if the commissioner determines
31 that the restriction is necessary for the safety of the
32 applicant and the public.

33 Subp. 6. Other situations. When the applicant's visual
34 acuity is 20/80 or up to, but not including, 20/100 corrected
35 vision, or when the applicant has any vision readings or
36 problems not covered by the above general standards, the
37 application will be referred to the driver evaluation unit, who
38 shall determine whether a restricted license can be issued and

1 the kinds of restrictions that are necessary to ensure that the
2 applicant does not pose an unreasonable safety risk to the
3 applicant personally or to others.

4 Subp. 7. License denial/cancellation. An applicant's
5 driver's license will be denied or an existing driver's license
6 will be canceled under the authority of Minnesota Statutes,
7 sections 171.04, subdivision 1, clause (9), 171.14, and 171.32,
8 when:

9 A. the applicant has visual acuity of 20/100 or less
10 corrected vision;

11 B. the applicant is known to be receiving assistance
12 for the blind;

13 C. the applicant has visual field of less than 100
14 degrees in the horizontal diameter with either one usable eye or
15 with both eyes;

16 D. the commissioner receives a recommendation from a
17 licensed physician or optometrist that the applicant's driver's
18 license should be canceled or denied; or

19 E. the applicant fails to submit a required vision
20 examination certificate within the requested time period.

21 REPEALER. Minnesota Rules, part 7410.2400, subpart 3, is
22 repealed.