

## **Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 21-10**

### ***License Issuance and Examination Administrative Rule Updates***

**DATE:** April 12, 2021

**FROM:** Sara Siedsma, Compliance Officer, MVD

**TO:** All Motor Vehicle Division staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer's staff the issue driver's licenses and non-operator's identification cards

#### **SUBJECT**

This informational memo explains updates to administrative rule chapters 761—602, Classes of Driver's Licenses; 761—604, License Examination; 761—605, License Issuance and 761—607, Commercial Driver Licensing and is most applicable to staff involved with processing transactions or answering questions about driver's license examination and issuance.

#### **SUMMARY**

The updates to these rule chapters implement several efficiencies to the driver's license issuance and examination process and aligns with existing legal authority and department practice. Specifically, the rule changes do the following:

- Conform the rules to 2020 Iowa legislation which increased the driver's license expiration dates for customers age 66 and older, allowing an eight-year credential to be issued not to exceed age 80. Once a person reaches age 78, the person is eligible for a driver's license with a two-year expiration date.
- Align current special re-examination practices with Iowa Code section 321.186 to provide that a special reexamination may consist of the requirement to provide a medical report or a vision report or screening, in addition to or instead of other testing and screening requirements.
- Specify that the six-month driver's license extension period applies to a noncommercial driver's license, whereas federal regulations only allow for a single 60-day extension if the person is a commercial driver's license (CDL) holder.
- Authorize an online license upgrade process for persons subject to the graduated driver's license (GDL) requirements if the minor was issued their minor's school license or intermediate license in-person.

**The administrative rule amendments are effective April 14, 2021.**

#### **LINK TO ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/arc/5495C.pdf>

#### **CURRENT**

Prior to this rulemaking, the rules did not yet incorporate the increased expiration dates for older drivers, were not clear that a medical report or vision report could be requested for a special reexamination, did not specify the available driver's license extension periods for non-commercial vs. commercial drivers and did not authorize an online license upgrade process for GDL drivers.

You may wish to review the previous informational memo (IM 20-25) we issued when the 2020 legislation increasing the license expiration dates for older drivers became effective for more information about the background of the legislation.

For internal DOT employees, you may find IM 20-25 in the W drive at the address below:

*W:\MotorVehicle\Policy & Communications\Memorandums\Memos\Policy Memos*

For County Treasurers and staff, you may find IM 20-25 at the link to the county treasurer's manual below:

<https://iowadot.gov/mvd/ctmanual/memos/IM-20-25.pdf>

### **NEW**

As of April 14, 2021, the rules will align with Iowa Code and our current processes outlined in the summary above.

### **BUSINESS IMPACT**

The addition of the new rule procedure for 60-day commercial driver's license extensions will allow CDL holders, who were previously not able to receive any type of temporary license extension, to receive a 60-day extension of their CDL, the maximum allowable extension per federal CDL regulations. However, the process for issuing extensions has not changed. For both noncommercial drivers applying for a six-month extension, or commercial drivers applying for a 60-day extension, the customer will complete and submit form 430027 to the DOT, which will be reviewed and processed by central office staff, who will then review the record and issue the extension.

The other rule changes contained in this directive will not significantly impact the way that MVD operates. We have already updated our processes and programming to implement the increased license expiration dates for older drivers. The changes clarifying that a medical and/or vision report may be requested during reexamination align with current department practice. Finally, while the rules now authorize an online license upgrade process for drivers in the GDL program, the programming to implement that process on MyMVD has not yet been completed. Once the programming is complete, we plan to send out additional guidance explaining the changes.