

CIRCULAR NO. 09/06

Sub : - MVs.Dept - Insistence of eye fitness certificate for the grant of Learner's Licence/renewal of Driving Licence - certificate from Ophthalmologist - modified and reissued.

Ref : - This Office Circular No.08/2004 dated 03-02-2004.

As a part of ensuring road safety a separate Medical Certificate regarding the standards of visual acuity for issuing/renewing Motor Driving License was made mandatory as per the circular cited. The Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons have pointed out that the Ophthalmologists are issuing the eligibility eye certificate to persons having varied visual acuity due to lack of proper guidelines in the matter and also due to the ambiguous nature of the format of the certificate form.

The absence of uniform guidelines prescribing standards of visual acuity of applicants for Driving Licence has been a lacunae in the procedure. As a result, some malpractices and irregularities in issuing the certificates are noticed. In order to avoid disparity in issuing certificates among Ophthalmologists, the minimum visual acuity for safe driving is to be fixed.

The directors of the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology have constituted a committee of experts to look in to the matter. It has formulated the guidelines to be followed by the Ophthalmologists in visual assessment and recommended two visual standards for driving Non-Transport and Transport vehicles and also suggested a new format of the certificate, which shall be issued only by an Ophthalmologist with a registered Post Graduate qualification in Ophthalmology.

All Licensing Authorities in the State are hereby directed to insist on the production of the new format, with the guidelines on the reverse of the paper at the time of application for learner's License/renewal of Driving License with immediate effect. The visual standards criteria shall be verified with reference to each applicant before the issue of Learner's/renewal License. The revised format of certificate is enclosed.

Receipt of the Circular shall be acknowledged by all

Sd/-
Transport Commissioner

CERTIFICATE FOR VISUAL STANDARDS FOR DRIVING

(See instructions overleaf before filling up the Certificate)

I have examined

Mr.Ms.Smt.....

Aged..... and his/her visual standards are as follows:

Photograph of
the candidate

(To be signed upon by
the Ophthalmologist)

I. Visual Acuity

Visual Acuity	A Unaided	B Corrected	Sph	Cyl	Axis	C Binocular Corrected
RE						
LE						

II. Night blindness.....

III. Squint.....

IV. Field (Degrees) Horizontal.....Vertical.....

V. Fundus.....RE.....LE.....

Any other significant ocular morbidity.....

Candidate is Fit/Unfit to drive a Category I/II vehicle.

Unfit due to criteria mentioned above.

(Category-I means Non Transport Vehicles which include Motor Cycles, Motor cars, etc, specified as such in Central Government Notification No.S.O.1248 (E) dated 5th November 2004 as non-transport vehicles.

(Category-II means Transport Vehicles which include Autorickshaws, Taxis, Stage Carriages, Contract Carriages, Goods Carriages, and Private Service Vehicles etc., specified as such in the said Notification.

Signature of the candidate:

Signature of Ophthalmologist

Seal

Place:

Date:

Certificate to be issued by an Ophthalmologist with a registered post graduate qualification in Ophthalmology. The seal should contain the name, qualifications and register number of the Ophthalmologist.

Visual Standards criteria for driving

Category I: Non-Transport Vehicles - includes Motor cycles (MC), Owner driven Light motor vehicles (LMV) (vehicles not fitting criteria for category II)

Category II: Transport Vehicles - Heavy vehicles (HMV), Commercial Passenger carrying vehicles, Goods carriers (Any category requiring issuance of a Badge)

I Visual Acuity

IA Unaided

Category I: Binocular unaided visual acuity of 3/60 or better

Category II: Each eye separately unaided visual acuity of 3/60 or better.

IB. Corrected

Category I: Worse eye corrected visual acuity of 6/60 or better.

Category II: Worse eye corrected visual acuity of 6/12 or better.

IC. Binocular Corrected

Category I: Binocularly, with glass correction, the candidate should be able to read 6/12 or better.

Category II: Binocularly, with glass correction, the candidate should be able to read 6/9 or better.

II Night blindness*

Presence of night blindness is not acceptable for both category II and I,

*This being a symptom is recorded as reported by the patient.

III Manifest Squint

Category I: Squint with visual acuity as in criteria I acceptable.

Category II: Any squint is unacceptable for Category II.

IV Field

Binocular field checked by confrontation method.

Category I: Horizontal field of vision of 120 degree and vertical of 40 degrees.

Category II: Horizontal field of vision of 180 degree and vertical of 40 degrees.

V Fundus

Undilated fundus examination unless otherwise indicated. To be recorded as WNL (within normal limits) or any specific pathology noted.

Any pathology that can affect night vision, field acuity should be investigated and the clinician should decide on fitness.

Colour vision problems by itself are not an impediment to driving.