

August 2012

Dear Optometrist,

DRIVER CERTIFICATES

This issue and availability of driver certificates to optometrists in South Africa is in accordance with an official arrangement between the South Africa Optometric Association and the Department of Transport.

The actual certificates and guidelines pertaining to issue to both optometrists and members of the public are based on close collaboration in the spirit of providing the South African Community with the benefits of optometric expertise.

Within the context of the above, the following points represent “do’s” and “don’ts” to safeguard both members of the profession and the public.

1. Practitioners may now charge a nominal fee for screening members of the public, obviously in the spirit of community service.
2. Members of the public have freedom of choice regarding selection of practice for screening purposes. Referrals of patients by any licensing station to any particular practice are regarded as a contravention of the agreement between the SAOA and Dept of Transport.
3. Rubber stamp confirming practice details is not a requirement for the issue of certificates. In fact, the use of rubberstamps is strongly discouraged as the stamp are easily replicated and could be used fraudulently to “authenticate” the certificates.
4. ID number of practitioners is not a requirement. As per above, (rubberstamp) stating ID number is strongly discouraged.
5. The SAOA certificate is the only means by which a licensing station may accept the results of a screening, i.e. official letterheads, etc. are not recognised by the Dept of Transport. The certificates are numbered and have water marks to address security risks.
6. Practices should complete the full form in black ink. It is an offence to give out an uncompleted form.
7. **Practices may only screen someone if the person can be verified by ID-book, Passport or driver’s licence. We strongly suggest that the patient signs the certificate, of which a copy is made and also of the person’s identification.**
8. **Practices are requested to keep these copies, (they can be scanned and kept on a hard drive),** and not only to protect practitioners concerned in the event of fraud but also to provide the necessary evidence should it be deemed necessary in a court of law.
9. Please keep unused certificates in a safe place to ensure the desired security.

I trust the above provides the necessary clarity as to the official position of both the Dept of Transport and the SAOA regarding the issue of certificates.

Should you, however, have any queries or require additional information you are most welcome to contact the office on Tel: 011 805 4517 at any time,

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely
Practice Portfolio

REGULATION 102
(Replacing Regulation 241)

102. Defective vision disqualifying person from obtaining or holding licence.

1. A person shall be disqualified from obtaining or holding a learner's or driving licence unless-
 - a. In the case of an application for a learner's or driving licence relating to the code A1, A, B or EB, such person has-
 - i. according to the Snellen rating a minimum visual acuity, with or without refractive correction, of 6/12 (20/40) for each eye, or where the visual acuity of one eye is less than 6/12 (20/40) or where one eye of the person concerned is blind, a minimum visual acuity for the other eye of 6/9 (20/30); and
 - ii. a minimum visual field of 70 degrees temporal, with or without refractive correction, in respect of each eye, or where the minimum visual field in respect of one eye is less than 70 degrees temporal, or where one eye is blind, a minimum total horizontal visual field of at least 115 degrees with or without refractive correction; or
 - b. In the case of an application for a learner's or driving licence relating to the code C1, C, EC1 or EC, such person has-
 - i. According to the Snellen rating a minimum visual acuity, with or without refractive correction, of 6/9 (20/30) for each eye; and
 - ii. A minimum visual field of 70 degrees temporal in respect of each eye, with or without refractive correction.
2.
 - a. A person who is disqualified in terms of sub-regulation (1) may at such person's expense approach a registered optometrist or ophthalmologist to test such person's eyes in terms of the standards referred to in sub-regulation(1), and the result of such test shall. If it duly reflects the visual acuity of such person according to the Snellen rating, and his or her field of vision expressed in degrees, as contemplated in sub-regulation (1), be accepted by the driving licence testing centre.
 - b. If the result contemplated in paragraph (a) indicates that the person concerned is disqualified as contemplated in sub-regulation (1), the driving licence

testing centre shall not issue such person with a learner's or driving licence with a code which the application of that person relates.

CODE CLASS OF MOTOR VEHICLE AUTHORISATION

A1 A motor cycle without side-car which has an engine with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125 cubic centimeters, or which is propelled by electrical power, but does not include-

i.any vehicle propelled by electrical power derived from storage batteries and which is pedestrian controlled; or

ii.any vehicle with a tare not exceeding 230 kilograms and specially designed and constructed, and not merely adapted, for the use of any person suffering from some includes authorization to drive-

i.(aa) a motor cycle with a side-car;

(bb) a motor tricycle;

(cc) a motor quadricycle

Which has an engine with a cylinder capacity not exceeding 125cubic centimeters; and

ii.a vehicle having pedals and an engine or an electric motor as an integral part thereof or attached thereto and which is designed or adapted to be propelled by means of such pedals, engine or motor, or both such pedals and engine or motor.

A A Motor cycle without a side-car which has an engine with a cylinder capacity exceeding 125 cubic centimetres. Include authorization to drive-

i.a motor cycle with a side-car;

ii.a motor tricycle;

iii.a motor quadricycle; and

iv.any other motor vehicle for which a code A1 driving license is required.

B A Motor vehicle, excluding a motor cycle, motor tricycle, motor quadricycle, tractor and a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural or industrial equipment or machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons or goods, being –

i.a motor vehicle the tare of which does not exceed 3500 kilograms; or

ii.a minibus, a bus or a goods vehicle, the gross vehicle mass of which does not exceed 3500 kilograms, with or without a trailer, the gross vehicle mass of which does not exceed 750 kilograms, but does not include an articulated motor vehicle. Includes authorization to drive –

i.a tractor; and

ii.a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural of industrial equipment or machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons or goods, with or without a trailer.

C1 A motor vehicle, excluding a motor cycle, motor tricycle, motor quadricycle, tractor and a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural or industrial equipment or machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons or goods, being –

i.a motor vehicle, the tare of which exceeds 3500 kilograms but does not exceed 16 000 kilograms; or

ii.a minibus, a bus or a goods vehicle, the gross vehicle, mass of which exceeds 3500 kilograms but does not exceeded 16000 kilograms, with or without a trailer, the gross vehicle mass of which does not exceed 750 kilograms, but does not include an articulated motor vehicle. Includes authorization to drive any motor vehicle for which a code B driving license is required.

C A motor vehicle, excluding a motor cycle, motor tricycle, motor quadricycle, tractor and a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural or industrial machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons or goods,

being a bus or a goods vehicle, the gross vehicle mass of which exceeds 16 000 kilograms, with or without a trailer the gross vehicle mass off which does not exceed 750 kilograms, but does not include an articulated motor vehicle.

Includes authorisation to drive any motor vehicle for which a code B or C1 driving licence is required.

EB A motor vehicle, excluding a motor cycle, motor tricycle, motor quadricycle, tractor and a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural and industrial equipment or machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons or goods, being-

i.an articulated motor vehicle, of which the gross combination mass of the truck-tractor does not exceed 3500 kilograms;

ii.a combination of-

(aa) a motor vehicle the tare of which does not exceed 3500 kilograms; or

(bb) a minibus, bus or goods vehicle, the gross vehicle mass of which does not exceed 3500 kilograms, with a trailer the gross vehicle mass of which exceeds 750 kilograms. Includes authorisation to drive a motor vehicle for which a coed B driving licence is required

EC1 A motor vehicle, including a motor cycle, motor tricycle, motor quadricycle, tractor and a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural or industrial equipment or machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons of goods, being-

i.an articulated motor vehicle, of which the gross combination mass of the truck-tractor exceeds 3500 kilograms but does not exceed 16 000 kilograms;

ii.a combination of-

(aa) a motor the tare of which exceeds 3500 kilograms but does not exceed 16 000 kilograms; or

(bb) a minibus, bus or goods vehicle, the gross vehicle mass of which exceeds 3500 kilograms but does not exceed

16 000 kilograms, with a trailer the gross vehicle mass of which exceeds 750 kilograms. Includes authorisation to drive any motor vehicle for which a code B, C1 or EB driving licence is required.

EC A motor vehicle, excluding a motor cycle, motor tricycle, motor quadricycle, tractor and a motor vehicle which is a type of mobile agricultural or industrial equipment or machinery not designed principally for the conveyance of persons or goods, being-

- i. an articulated motor vehicle of which the gross combination mass of the truck-tractor exceeds 16 000 kilograms;**
- ii. a combination of a bus of goods vehicle, the gross vehicle mass of which exceeds 16 000 kilograms, with a trailer the gross vehicle of which exceed 750 kilograms. Includes authorisation to drive any motor vehicle a code B, C1, C, EB or EC1 driving licence is required.**