



## Chapter 2

# New Jersey Driver Testing

- 30 Requirements for Basic Driver License
- 32 Road Tests
- 34 Reasons for Rejection

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A BASIC DRIVER LICENSE

### 6 POINT ID VERIFICATION

Applicants for a New Jersey driver license must have all required documents to satisfy the 6 Point ID Verification at all times.

### VISION TEST

A vision screening is required for all motorists. The MVC may refer applicants with impaired vision to a physician.

### KNOWLEDGE TEST

The knowledge test consists of 50 questions, plus a survey question about organ donation. The MVC offers the knowledge test in English and these foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. If the applicant cannot read in any language, an oral test that is conducted in English or Spanish may be arranged. If the applicant is unable to take an oral or written test in the languages provided or if he/she is hearing impaired, he/she may use an MVC-approved interpreter, according to the following guidelines.

### INTERPRETERS

An approved foreign language interpreter is:

- A full-time faculty member of a college or university in the United States, who displays a current identification card issued by that college or university
- A priest, minister, rabbi or other religious leader of a recognized organization, who displays credentials showing his/her association in such an organization
- An individual listed on the N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts (Language Services Section) Registry of Interpreters and Agencies

An approved hearing-impaired interpreter is:

- An interpreter certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and listed with the New Jersey Division of the Deaf
- An interpreter who has been evaluated by the Division of the Deaf and is on the approved list of professional interpreters

The MVC will pay the interpreter fees for hearing-impaired applicants. Contact any Driver Testing Center for more information about approved interpreters or fee payments.

## TEST REQUIREMENTS

SCREENING TESTS	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
EYESIGHT	<p><b>Basic license applicants:</b> 20/50 vision with or without corrective lenses. For sight in one eye only, that eye must meet the 20/50 rule and the applicant must have documentation signed by a licensed physician.</p> <p><b>CDL license applicants:</b> 20/40 vision with or without corrective lenses in both eyes. Must be able to distinguish among red, green and amber lights.</p>
WRITTEN	80 percent, or 40 of the 50 questions, must have correct answers.
HEALTH	Inform examiner of health problems. Under federal law, commercial drivers must carry a medical examiner's fitness statement and have it renewed every two years.

## OUT-OF-STATE AND OUT-OF COUNTRY APPLICANTS

Applicants who wish to transfer a valid out-of-state license may be required to take the knowledge test, vision screening and/or road test. Out-of-state applicants between 17 and 18 years of age who possess a valid out-of-state license will be given a provisional license for a period of one year and must comply with GDL requirements and restrictions.

All out-of-country applicants must pass the knowledge test and a vision screening and may be required to pass a road test. Test results are valid for two years.

Note: Applicants from U.S. possessions and territories are considered out of country.

## VISION RECHECK

Periodically, the MVC may require a vision recheck of a New Jersey motorist. License renewal will be permitted upon passing the vision screening.

## HEALTH QUESTIONS

If the applicant has a health problem, a medical review may be necessary. The examiner will discuss this with the applicant.

## ROAD TEST

After an applicant passes the knowledge test and vision screening and, if applicable, an approved behind-the-wheel course, the MVC will validate his/her permit so that he/she can practice. GDL permit holders under 21 years of age must have a minimum of six months supervised practice driving prior to a road test appointment. GDL permit holders, 21 years old and over, must have a minimum of three months supervised practice driving prior to a road test appointment. To make an appointment for an initial road test or a retest, visit any Driver Testing Center or schedule online at [www.njmvc.gov](http://www.njmvc.gov). Appointments may not be made by phone.

### TEST VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

For the road test, an applicant must have a vehicle with a valid inspection sticker, a valid registration document and a valid insurance ID card for that vehicle (unless covered by BPU or federal DOT regulations). The vehicle may not have any obstructions or consoles that prevent the examiner from reaching the foot or parking brakes. The applicant must also have a valid permit and be accompanied by a licensed driver. The accompanying driver must hold a license to operate the type of vehicle for which the applicant has a permit (except for a moped).

Vehicles registered out of state must comply with motorist's home state's laws with regard to insurance identification

### ACCOMPANYING DRIVER REQUIREMENTS

An applicant may drive a properly registered vehicle to the road test area. However, a licensed driver must remain in the vehicle with the applicant at all times. A vehicle may not be moved, even in the road test line, without a licensed driver in the vehicle. If the accompanying motorist is licensed in a state other than New Jersey, or has less than three years of driving experience, he/she must drive the vehicle to the road test area. The MVC does not supply vehicles for road tests.

### ELEMENTS OF THE ROAD TEST

On the actual road test, an MVC examiner will ride with the applicant when he/she drives in an off-road test area or on a public road course. The purpose of the road test is to make sure that the applicant understands the rules of the road and can drive safely. If the applicant's vehicle has a standard transmission, the examiner will ask the applicant to demonstrate his/her ability to correctly shift gears.

During the basic road test, the examiner may test the applicant on the following items:

TEST ITEM	PAGE
Driving in reverse	49
Following other vehicles	85, 86
Nearing corners, intersections	62
Parking (parallel)	52
Sitting properly	38
Starting a vehicle	44, 45
Steering properly	46, 47
Stopping at signs	71
Stopping smoothly	48
Turning	50, 68, 69
Turning around	51
Using the horn	43
Yielding right-of-way	61

If an applicant passes the road test, the examiner will issue an authorization for licensing. The permit, authorization and 6 Points of ID Verification must be taken to a motor vehicle agency to obtain the digital driver license (DDL).

The MVC will license a successful applicant for a Class D basic driver license or Class E motorcycle license as a provisional driver if the applicant has never been licensed to drive a motor vehicle in this or any other state. The MVC will monitor his/her driving habits for two years.

If an applicant fails the road test, he/she must wait at least two weeks before taking the test again. To reschedule the test, go to any Driver Testing Center in person or schedule online at **[www.njmvc.gov](http://www.njmvc.gov)**. After several failures, the MVC may require an applicant to wait six months before retaking the road test.

## REASONS FOR REJECTION

Most applicants believe that their driving performance is the only criterion the examiner uses to grade their road test. However, the vehicle may be the cause of failure. Some license applicants may not have the opportunity to take an initial road test because an examiner considers the vehicle unsuitable or unsafe for the test.

Here are some of the more common reasons the MVC rejects road test vehicles:

- Improper, expired or no inspection sticker
- Lack of examiner access to foot brake or parking brake
- Any defect or condition that affects the safe operation of the test vehicle, such as but not limited to:
  - Poor brakes (pedal must not fade or go to the floorboard)
  - Parking brake doesn't work
  - Unsafe tires (smooth, cut, badly worn)
  - Vehicle interior is not in reasonably clean condition
  - Vehicle failed inspection, and motorist does not bring the Vehicle Inspection Report issued by the inspection station to road test area
  - Vehicle not equipped with radial tires or snow tires or chains when road is snow covered
  - Fast engine idle (cannot judge speed control)
  - Missing seat belts (seat belts are required on all vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1966)

Additional items for motorcycle and moped tests only:

- Lack of equipment required by state regulations
- No helmet
- Unapproved goggles or face shield
- No bell or horn (but not a siren or whistle) that can be heard 100 feet away

See motorcycle or moped manuals for more specific information.

