

Chapter Trans 103

VISION STANDARDS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS

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Note: Chapter MVD 20 and s. MVD 14.07 were repealed and a new chapter Trans 103 was created effective 6-1-88.

Trans 103.01 Purpose and scope. As authorized by s. 85.16 (1), Stats., the purpose of this chapter is to establish vision standards for persons who apply for licenses to operate motor vehicles as authorized under ch. 343, Stats., except that school bus operator's, special restricted and driver school instructor's licenses are not subject to this rule. Vision standards for those licenses are covered under other administrative rules specific to the license.

Note: Refer to chs. Trans 105, 110 and 111, Wis. Adm. Code, and s. 343.63, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Advisory recommendation" means a vision specialist's non-binding recommendation about licensing or about licensing restrictions based on an examination conducted within the past 3 months prior to the date the recommendation is received by the department.

(2) "Corrective lens" means an ophthalmic lens, whether an eyeglass or a contact lens, that corrects the refraction error or other optically correctible deficiency of the eye.

(3) "Denied licensing" means a license shall be cancelled or not be issued.

(4) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of transportation.

(5) "Driving evaluation" means an evaluation to determine if a person's actual ability to operate a motor vehicle compensates adequately for the person's medical, mental or physical condition, or functional impairment with or without correction.

(6) "Field of vision" means the entire horizontal, temporal plane a person has for each eye without shifting the gaze.

(7) "Review board" means a review board established under s. 343.16 (2), Stats.

(8) "Vision specialist" means a person who practices optometry as defined by s. 449.01 (1), Stats., or a physician as defined by s. 448.01 (5), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.03 Corrective lenses. (1) A person needing corrective lenses to meet the standards in this chapter shall be restricted to use of those lenses while driving.

(2) If a person meets the standards in this chapter without corrective lenses yet a vision specialist's report recommends the person wear corrective lenses for driving, the person shall be restricted to use of those corrective lenses while driving.

(3) A bioptic telescopic or similar lens which reduces the field of vision below the standards in this chapter may not be used to meet the visual acuity standards in this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.04 Visual acuity. (1) A person with unaided visual acuity of at least 20/40 in one eye may be eligible for an unrestricted operator's license. When a corrective lens is used to meet this standard, the license shall be restricted to require the use of those corrective lenses while driving.

(2) A person with uncorrected or corrected visual acuity of less than 20/40 in each eye, but at least 20/60 in one eye is subject to the following:

(a) Referral to a vision specialist for examination and an advisory recommendation.

(b) Completion of a driving evaluation when one is recommended by a vision specialist.

(c) Assignment of restrictions, such as driving only during daylight hours or driving in a limited area, dependent upon a recommendation from a vision specialist or based on the results of a driving evaluation demonstrating adequate compensation for the loss of vision.

(d) A chauffeur's license may be further restricted as follows:

1. No transporting persons for hire;
2. No hauling of hazardous material; and
3. No driving an authorized emergency vehicle.

(3) A person having uncorrected or corrected visual acuity of less than 20/60 in each eye but 20/100 or better in one eye is subject to the following:

(a) Referral to a vision specialist for examination and an advisory recommendation.

(b) Completion of a driving evaluation.

(c) Assignment of restrictions, such as driving only during daylight hours or driving in a limited area, dependent upon a recommendation from a vision specialist and based on the results of a driving evaluation demonstrating adequate compensation for the loss of vision.

(d) A chauffeur's license may be further restricted as follows:

1. No transporting persons for hire;
2. No hauling of hazardous material; and
3. No driving an authorized emergency vehicle.

(4) A person having corrected visual acuity of less than 20/100 in each eye shall be denied licensing.

Note: The following visual acuity chart outlines the requirements set forth in s. Trans 103.04.

Visual Acuity Chart

VA	20/20	20/30	20/40	20/50	20/60	20/70	20/80	20/90	20/100	Less Than 20/100
20/20	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
20/30	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
20/40	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
20/50	U	U	U	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
20/60	U	U	U	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1	R1
20/70	U	U	U	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
20/80	U	U	U	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
20/90	U	U	U	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
20/100	U	U	U	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	R2
Less Than 20/100	U	U	U	R1	R1	R2	R2	R2	R2	D

U = May be eligible for unrestricted license. (If corrective lenses are needed to meet the visual acuity standards, then the operator's license shall be restricted to wearing required corrective lenses.) (Sec. Trans 103.03)

R1 = Shall be referred to a vision specialist. Driving evaluation shall be required when recommended by a vision specialist. Chauffeur licenses may be restricted as follows: no transporting persons for hire; no hauling hazardous materials; no driving emergency vehicles; and other restrictions as appropriate. (Sec. Trans 103.04 (2))

R2 = Shall be referred to a vision specialist. Shall have a driving evaluation. Chauffeur licenses shall be restricted to the following: no transporting persons for hire; no hauling hazardous materials; no driving authorized emergency vehicles; and other restrictions as appropriate. (Sec. Trans 103.04 (3))

D = Denial of licensing. (Sec. Trans 103.04 (4))

VA = Uncorrected or, if correction is required, corrected visual acuity.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.05 Field of vision. (1) A person with a horizontal, temporal field of vision of 70° or more from center in each eye has met the field of vision requirements for an unrestricted operator's license.

(2) Any person with a horizontal, temporal field of vision of less than 70° from center in one eye and 70° or more from center in the other eye shall be restricted to driving with an outside rear view mirror to compensate for the loss of field of vision. A person restricted to driving with a right outside rear view mirror may have this restriction waived based on a driving evaluation demonstrating adequate compensation for the loss of field of vision.

(3) Any person with less than a 70° horizontal, temporal field of vision from center in each eye is subject to the following:

(a) Shall be referred to a vision specialist for an examination and an advisory recommendation.

(b) Shall complete a driving evaluation.

(c) Shall be restricted to driving with outside rear view mirrors to compensate for the loss of field of vision.

(d) May be subject to license restrictions, such as driving only during daylight hours or driving in a limited area, but these restrictions may be waived based on a recommendation from a vision specialist and driving evaluation demonstrating adequate compensation for the loss of field of vision.

(e) A chauffeur's license shall be subject to the following restrictions:

1. No transporting persons for hire;
2. No hauling hazardous material; and
3. No driving authorized emergency vehicles.

(4) Any person with a horizontal, temporal field of vision of 20° or less from center in each eye shall be denied licensing.

(5) The department shall determine a person's field of vision using a vision screening device. A vision specialist shall determine field of vision by using a 3 millimeter target at a distance of one-third meter or a 10 millimeter target at a distance of 1 meter.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.06 Other conditions. (1) Any person who has a chronic or progressive eye condition shall be referred to a vision specialist for an examination and an advisory recommendation.

(2) Any person deficient in color vision or stereopsis will be advised of the finding, but will not for that reason be denied licensing.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.07 Periodic reports. Follow-up examinations and reports by a vision specialist may be required for reduced vision or other chronic or progressive conditions that are likely to result in the loss of visual acuity or field of vision.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.

Trans 103.08 Review boards. (1) (a) Persons who have been denied licensing under this chapter may request a review of the licensing action by a review board under s. 343.16 (2), Stats.

(b) If a person requesting review under para. (a) questions the application of s. Trans 103.04 (2) (d) or (3) (d) or Trans 103.05 (3) (e), the review board may assess the person's vision history. The review board may recommend that an exception to those paragraphs be granted by the department if, in the review board's opinion, the person's visual acuity, field or vision, or eye condition does not impair the person's ability to operate safely as a chauffeur.

(2) Within 10 working days after the department receives the review board's recommendation, the department shall give notice to the person affected. The notice shall include the review board's recommendation and the department's decision.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1988, No. 389, eff. 6-1-88.