

VISUAL DISORDERS

The main elements of vision necessary for safe driving are visual acuity, peripheral vision and freedom from double vision (diplopia) These three items are elaborated in the following charts on visual parameters. Other, not so easily measured visual factors, are discussed below:

Defects in color vision, important in distinguishing traffic signals, are usually compensated for by learning traffic light positions and are not in themselves reasons to deny driving but will usually have been tested adequately by the road evaluation.

Night vision and glare recovery may be impaired in the presence of corneal scars, cataracts, and retinal disease.

Dynamic visual acuity (acuity measured when there is movement of a driver or object) and speed blur are important to keep in mind since speed and motion appear to decrease acuity and peripheral vision.

Physician judgment and counseling of the driver as well as recommendations to the driver examiner to look for problems caused by the above defects will be helpful in identifying drivers whose visual disorders may be a hazard even though it cannot be measured by standard visual tests.

FUNCTIONAL ABILITY PROFILE: Visual Disorders Double Vision

| Profile Levels | Circumstances* | Condition Example | Interval for Review |
|----------------|---|---|--|
| 1. | No diagnosed condition | Never sees double | |
| 2. | Condition fully recovered & compensated | Past history of diplopia which has recovered | Per Recommendation |
| 3. | Active impairment: a. Minimal b. Mild c. Moderate d. Severe | a. Eyes crossed but no diplopia without patch. b. Intermittent diplopia or constant double vision correctable by patching one eye. c. Monocular diplopia in only eye meeting visual acuity standards with potential for correction. d. Monocular diplopia in only eye meeting visual acuity standards without potential for correction | a. N/A b. 4 years c. No driving d. No driving |
| 4. | Condition under investigation | Recent onset of diplopia. | As needed |

* For further explanation refer to page 1

**FUNCTIONAL ABILITY PROFILE:
Peripheral Vision**

| Profile Levels | Circumstances* | Condition Example | Interval for Review |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| 1. | No known impairment. | Binocular visual field of at least 150° measured with a 10mm white test object at 330mm, without corrective lenses, in the horizontal meridian. | |
| 2. | Condition fully recovered & compensated | Past history of visual field defect but currently 150° or more. | N/A |
| 3. | Active impairment: a. Minimal b. Mild c. Moderate d. Severe | a. Binocular or monocular visual field of 140° or better. b. Binocular or monocular visual field of 140° or better with potential for deterioration. c. Peripheral vision of less than 140° but at least 110° Restricted to right and left outside mirrors. d. Permanent visual field of less than 110° | a. 4 years b. 1 year c. No driving d. No driving |
| 4. | Condition under investigation | Recent onset of visual field loss. | As needed |

* For further explanation refer to page 1

**FUNCTIONAL ABILITY PROFILE:
Visual Acuity**

| Profile Levels | Circumstances* | Condition Example | Interval for Review |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1. | No known impairment ² | Sees 20/40 or better in best eye without correction | Standard ¹ |
| 2. | Condition fully recovered & compensated ² | Visual acuity correctable to 20/40 or better in best eye | Standard |
| 3. | Active impairment ² : a. Minimal b. Mild c. Moderate d. Severe | a. Vision correctable by lenses in best eye to 20/40 or better at distance. b. (1) Vision correctable to 20/40 in best eye but could deteriorate soon due to glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, etc. (2) Vision correctable to 20/50 in best eye; restricted to daytime operation only ³ . (3) Vision correctable to 20/60 in best eye; restricted to daytime operation within a 25 mile radius of residence ³ (4) Vision correctable to 20/70 in each eye; restricted to daytime operation within a 25 mile radius of residence ³ c. Vision currently less than 20/70 in each eye d. Vision currently less than 20/70 in each eye without chance of recovery. | a. Standard b. 1 year c. No driving d. No driving |
| 4. | Condition under investigation | Newly reported change in visual acuity. | As needed |
| ^{1,2,3} See footnotes on page 28 | | | |

* For further explanation refer to page 1

FUNCTIONAL ABILITY PROFILE: Visual Disorders
Visual Acuity

VISUAL ACUITY

1. Standard means visual test at the license renewal periods established by the Motor Vehicle statutes.
2. Correction through the use of telescopic or bioptic lenses is not acceptable for purposes of meeting any of the visual acuity requirements nor may such lenses be used during any phase of the driver license examination process.
3. The daytime only and/or geographic restriction(s) may be reduced or enlarged on the basis of:
 - a. a recommendation from an optometrist or ophthalmologist advising that the individual's vision is adequate to permit the safe operation of a motor vehicle; and
 - b. a supervisory driver's examination that demonstrates the individual's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely; and
 - c. a review of the individual's driving record shows the ability to operate a motor vehicle safely and in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations governing the operation of motor vehicles.