

Noncommercial (Class D) Skills Test Guide



Contains important skills test information, including:

- Purpose of the Skills Test
- Who Needs to Take a Skills Test?
- What Does a Skills Test Include?
- How Do I Prepare For a Skills Test?
- What Must I Do To Pass The Test?
- Tips
- What is a Restricted License?

Provided by the
Idaho Transportation Department

Unless you already have driving privileges, you must come to the skills test in a vehicle driven by a licensed driver. You will be allowed to drive without a driver's license only during the skills test. **You will not have driving privileges allowing you to drive at any other time until your driver's license is issued.**

A foreign language translator, sign language interpreter, or the parent or guardian of an applicant under the age of eighteen may ride in the vehicle during the skills test after signing a "Waiver of Liability." No other passengers nor any pets are permitted in the vehicle during the test. Cell phones must be turned off or disconnected. Loose or valuable items should not be in the vehicle during the test.

What Is A Restricted License?

The skills tester is charged with the responsibility of assuring that the drivers tested are capable of driving safely on public roads. Although public safety cannot be compromised, providing a restricted license to a driver with limited driving skills may be the answer to meeting the driver's transportation needs while still providing for the safety of others.

If your driving skills are not as good as they used to be or are limited for any reason, a restricted license may be the best way to meet your needs and the public's safety expectations at the same time. Discussing the situation with the tester prior to the test may make the testing process less stressful for both of you.



04-10
01-963542-4

- **Pre-drive check:** During this part of the test, you will be required to identify, locate, and demonstrate that the items listed below are in good working order:

- Tires (must have at least 1/32" tread)
- Brakes, including emergency brake
- Head lights, brake lights, and turn signals (front and back)
- Windshield and wipers
- Defroster
- Gauges
- Seat belts
- Horn
- Rear view mirror(s)
- Driver window in good working order
- Emergency flashers
- Passenger door (must open and close)

- **Road test:** During this part of the skills test, you will be required to demonstrate your ability to safely operate the vehicle and obey traffic laws while performing the following driving maneuvers:

- Street parking and backing
- Parking lot driving
- Business and residential driving
- Freeway or highway driving
- Four right turns and four left turns
- Eight intersections
- A curve
- Lane changes.

You will be tested on proper traffic checks, speed, acceleration and deceleration, stopping and stopping distances, lane changes, lane position, and vehicle spacing.

The tester will be making various marks on the score sheet as you are driving. Do not be distracted by the scoring, it does not necessarily indicate that an error has been made.

Purpose of the Skills Test

The skills test evaluates your ability to drive a vehicle safely, demonstrate good driving habits, and obey traffic laws in a variety of driving situations. It is the final step required in qualifying for the privilege of driving on Idaho's streets and highways.

Who Needs To Take A Skills Test?

Skills tests are required for:

- all new applicants who have never been licensed before.
- any applicant who has completed an approved driver's training course and the supervised instruction period. Skills test eligibility date is strictly enforced.
- all applicants who have been driving under authority of an instruction permit.
- all drivers who have annual or semi-annual skills test requirements required by the Idaho Transportation Department.
- any applicant whose vision does not meet minimum standards.
- any applicant presenting a foreign license.
- any applicant whose driver's license has been expired for one year or more.

The skills test may also be required for:

- any applicant having any mental or physical impairment that might affect the safe operation of a motor vehicle, and
- any applicant, regardless of prior license, experience or age, when an examiner has concerns about the applicant's driving skills.

How Do I Prepare For A Skills Test?

1. Study the *Idaho Driver's Manual*. (Pay special attention to chapters two through nine.)
2. Pass the Idaho written test (if required) and obtain a receipt allowing you to take the skills test (\$6.50).
3. Make sure that the vehicle to be used for the test is in good running condition, is clean and safe to operate, and that you have authorization to use it. You must provide proof of insurance and registration prior to taking the test.
4. Make an appointment with a certified skills tester. A list of skills testers in your area will be provided by the driver's license office when you make application, or you can obtain the list online at www.itd.idaho.gov/dmv/DriverServices/ds.htm. The skills test fee of \$17.50 is to be paid directly to the skills tester.

Some helpful hints when making an appointment:

- Please be courteous when scheduling your appointment.
- Do not call after 9 p.m. or before 8 a.m.
- Speak clearly and include your phone number when leaving a message.
- Be sure to schedule with only one tester.
- If you find a more convenient appointment than the one you first scheduled, be sure to cancel any other appointment(s) you have made with another tester(s).

What Must I Do To Pass The Test?

To pass the test, you must successfully complete the pre-drive check and make 15 or fewer errors during the skills test. You will fail the test immediately if you commit any dangerous action or a serious driving error, cause a collision or near collision, show a serious or persistent violation of

law, or exhibit a lack of cooperation.

If you do not pass the skills test, you may re-schedule another test. A three-day waiting period is required by law and you will be required to obtain another receipt for \$6.50 and pay another skills test fee of \$17.50.

When you have passed your skills test, return to the driver's license office with the sealed envelope which will be given to you by the skills tester. The driver's license office will then issue you a driver's license.

Tips

- Be considerate of the skills tester and be on time for your scheduled test.
- If you are not going to be able to keep the appointment or you are going to be late, let the tester know. Some testers schedule back to back appointments. You may not be able to test if you are late.
- Wear comfortable and appropriate clothing and have a clean car. Rentals may not be allowed. Ask about this when you schedule.
- You must provide proof of insurance and a valid current registration.
- Try to relax but remain alert and listen carefully to the tester's instructions. The tester will not ask you to perform an illegal or unsafe maneuver during the test.

What Does A Skills Test Include?

Your skills test will take about 30 minutes to complete, and consists of two parts: the pre-drive check and the road test. During the pre-drive check, you will be required to demonstrate arm signaling for turning and stopping.