

DRIVER EXAMINATION DIVISION

1952-2019

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Driver Examination Division provides an effective program of driver testing to ensure Missouri licensed drivers have a level of competency consistent with safe driving habits and practices as well as demonstrated skills and knowledge of Missouri laws related to traffic safety. The Driver Examination Division provides the written and skills test for applicants applying for a Missouri operator's license, motorcycle license, Class E chauffeur's license, and commercial driver's license (CDL).

The Driver Examination Division provides administrative and staff support for the program in the field. Responsibilities of the division include: program direction and guidance, coordination of examination site selection, liaison with the Department of Revenue and field personnel, correspondence and contacts concerning the driver examination program, training, equipment, supplies procurement, and overall program budget control.

The 66th General Assembly of 1952 passed the Driver's License Examination Law and delegated its supervision to the Highway Patrol. Thirty-five uniformed officers of the Highway Patrol, Kansas City Police Department, and St. Louis Police Department administered the statewide driver tests until 1955. In 1955, the entire program was given to the Highway Patrol. On July 26, 1955, 26 civilian driver examiners reported for duty to take on the extra duties tasked to the Highway Patrol. Prior to the Driver Examination Division, the driver testing resided in various divisions within the Highway Patrol, including the Traffic Division, Safety Division, Safety and Administration Division, and the Driver and Vehicle Regulation Division.

Beginning in 1968, motorcycle tests were initiated.

In 1987, DE Sprv. Dale Shikles transferred to General Headquarters to help the division prepare for the new CDL program. He was the first driver examiner assigned to General Headquarters. While serving in this capacity, he was promoted to chief driver examiner. In 1990, Dale was promoted to senior chief driver examiner. Dale Shikles was the first senior chief examiner and held the position until his retirement in 2005. At that time, Rhonda Czarnecki was promoted to senior chief examiner.

A new law affecting school bus drivers became effective on September 1, 1988. It required drivers of school buses owned by or under contract with a public school or the State Board of Education to obtain a school bus operator's permit.

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 required the development of minimum standards for all commercial drivers nationwide. All

states were required to be in compliance with the CDL testing standards by April 1, 1992.

In 1990, the first Commercial Driver's License Examiner Training Session took place at the Safety Center located at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, Missouri. The five-day training addressed how to conduct road tests under the new CDL program. Driver examiners and driver examiner sergeants from around the state attended.

In 1991 the state law allowed for third party testers to administer the commercial driver license skills examination. The staff at Central Missouri State University and the Driver Examination Division (GHQ) held a one-week Third Party Training Course. Eighteen people took the course, which was conducted at the Central Missouri State University Safety Center at Warrensburg.

The Graduated Driver's License law became effective January 1, 2001, requiring that all first-time drivers between 15 and 18 years old complete a period of driving with a licensed driver (instruction permit) and restricted driving (intermediate license) before getting a full driver's license.

In 2003, the Driver Examination Division transitioned to a computerized written test. The applicant simply touched the screen to answer the questions.

In 2007, new CDL testing sites were opened in Rolla and Carthage. Section 302.720 RSMo. was revised in 2007, required all CDL written tests be administered in the English language. No translators are allowed for applicants taking CDL tests.

In October 2009, the Driver Examination Division implemented a field training program for new examiners. This program was designed to assure all new hires were trained consistently throughout the state

In September 1, 2011, the Patrol implemented statewide changes to both the written and skills test for motorcycle drivers. The test now being administered is the latest version of the motorcycle skills testing developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation.

In November 2011, the Driver Examination Division deployed the first mobile computer testing station for one of the 26 traveling crews statewide. The mobile testing station consisted of two laptop computers, five electronic touch screen computers, a printer, and a router.

In June 2019, the Driver Examination Division and Motor Vehicle Inspection Division merged to create the Driver & Vehicle Safety Division. The new division includes a Driver Examination Section and a Motor Vehicle Inspection Section. Captain Darewin L. Clardy was named division director.

DRIVER EXAMINATION DIVISION DIRECTORS:

Lt. J.A. Berglund	1952 to 1953	Div. of Safety & Administration
Captain J.A. Berglund	1953 to 1966	
Captain F.W. Shadwell	1967 to 1968	Div. of Safety
Captain F.W. Shadwell	1969 to 1972	Traffic Division
Captain C.S. Endicott	1973 to 1978	Traffic Division

Captain J.M. Luker	1979 to 1980	Driver & Vehicle Regulation Div. (Included CVE, MVI, DE)
Lt. Robert J. "Bob" Hagan	1981 to 1988	Driver Examination Division
Captain J.F. Gaines	1989	" "
Lt. W.L. Baucom	1990	
Lt. B.R. Nelson	1991 to 1993	
Captain B.R. Nelson	1994 to 2007	
Captain G.L. Moore	2007 to 2010	
Captain K.A. Geiger	2010 to 2011	
Captain L.D. Elder	2011 to 2013	
Captain D.P. Perkins	2013 to 2019	

SENIOR CHIEF DRIVER EXAMINERS:

Dale Shikles - 1990 to 2005

Rhonda Czarnecki - 2005 to 2019+