



Upcoming Changes to MVA Driver's License and Identification Card

Effective January 1, 2014

TO: All Maryland Law Enforcement Agencies

FROM: Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

DATE: December 27, 2013

RE: Changes to Maryland License and Permit Requirements

On January 1, 2014, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) will be making two significant modifications to its product issuance processes. Please read the information below.

I. Maryland Highway Safety Act of 2013

Recent changes to Maryland law expands the ability of the MVA to issue products that are marked with a "U" restriction to individuals who are presenting foreign identification documents without accompanying United States Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation. This law is intended to increase highway safety by ensuring that all individuals who operate a motor vehicle on Maryland roadways have had the opportunity to complete basic driver education and meet minimal driving skill proficiency standards.

As part of these new statutory requirements, some minor modifications have been made to the current format of the Maryland permit, license and identification products. The presentation of the "U" (NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES) restriction code on the front and back of the product remains unchanged. However, products issued on or after January 1, 2014 that bear a "U" restriction must also be accompanied by an "A" restriction noting that the holder may not use the product for the purchase of a firearm.

Additionally, products bearing a "U" restriction are no longer mandated to expire on June 30, 2015. The expiration and duration of these products will follow the standard issuance parameters currently in use for all other MVA product types.

The MVA will continue to issue federally compliant products to individuals who can demonstrate lawful status. These products can be distinguished because they do not contain the NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES language. Products that have the restriction code "T" (limited term temporary) have had no modifications and will continue to be issued by the MVA.

A sample of the updated products with the referenced restriction codes is attached.

II. Central Issuance

The MVA will be making changes to the way in which some customers receive products. **On January 1, 2014** the MVA will no longer issue learner's permits, identification (ID) cards, or new driver's licenses bearing a "U" restriction over the counter. Instead, customers will be given a paper interim receipt and the physical product will be mailed to them via a "central issuance" process.

"Central issuance" is a mechanism used in 29 other states and only affects the way the card is delivered to the customer. It does not affect the application process or any other requirement for obtaining a permit, ID card or license. The cards will be produced in one central location and then mailed to the customer's address on record with the MVA. Customers will not leave the MVA with a card in hand. This process is similar to the one already utilized for individuals who renew their Maryland driver's license or ID card through the mail, web or MVA Kiosk.

Should a customer be exchanging an out-of-state issued product for a Maryland license or ID, the MVA will deface the product (with a hole punched over the first letter in the name of the state – example below) and return it to the customer with the interim receipt. The MVA will also deface Maryland issued products when the holder's license has been suspended, revoked or cancelled and they are exchanging that product for a new MD credential (based on applicant eligibility).

When a customer is renewing a previously issued Maryland product, the MVA will not deface the expired/expiring credential that the applicant currently possesses. Rather, that product will be returned to the customer along with the newly printed interim receipt.

In all circumstances, the customer will be instructed to retain both the interim receipt and the defaced or returned credential until their new product is mailed and received. Customers should expect to receive their new product in the mail within 10 days. There is also an expedited mailing process should customers need their product sooner.

Please note that the individual's MVA record will be created/updated to reflect the information that is present on the interim receipt. As such, the MVA does consider the individual valid to drive while their new product is in transit, and they possess both the interim receipt and the defaced/returned previous product.

Please contact the Driver Services office at 410-768-7294, 410-768-7243 or 410-768-7255 with any questions regarding these changes.

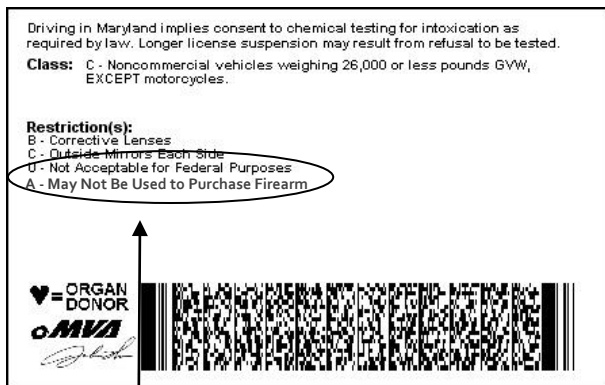
Thank you,

Motor Vehicle Administration

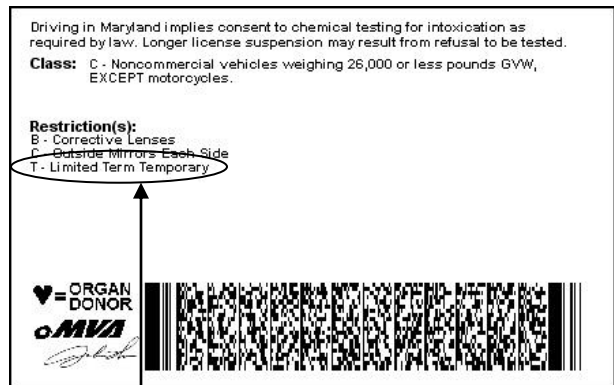
Maryland Highway Safety Act – Product Example (DL)

- 1) “T” and “U” restrictions have been in use since June 1, 2009 – no change to presentation on product.
- 2) “A” restriction will appear on products issued on or after January 1, 2014.

Location of “NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES”



“U” restriction on back of product denoting it is “Not Acceptable for Federal Purposes”. “A” restriction denotes can’t be used to purchase a firearm.



“T” restriction on back of product denoting it is valid for a limited term based on holder’s length of lawful status.

Central Issuance

Sample Interim Receipt

Maryland
Motor Vehicle Administration
6601 Ritchie Hwy
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

INTERIM DOCUMENT
Expires On : 1/4/2014

NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES

Soundex : 8514778616991
Product : Non Commercial
Driver License
Type : New
Class : CM
Name : SUZY MVA SAMPLE
Address : 6601 RITCHIE HWY
GLEN BURNIE, MD 21062
Birth Date : 12/28/1972
Product Expires : 12/28/2021
Sex : F
HT : 6-01
WT : 150 lbs
Organ Donor : Yes

Restriction(s) :

U - Not Acceptable for Federal Purposes
A - May Not Be Used to Purchase Firearm

Customer Copy
12/5/2013 - 8:27:35 AM

Location of hole punch on "defaced"
product – example out-of-state DL

