

July 10, 2008

Dear Driving School Owner:

Re: Teen Driving Law Changes
Driving School Two Hour Parent Training - Curriculum Standard
Parent/Guardian Driving Instruction Log

On August 1, 2008 several changes in the laws and Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) procedures that relate to teen drivers take effect. DMV Commissioner Robert M. Ward outlined some of those changes in his June 17, 2008 letter to you. We will continue to provide you with guidance to assist you to implement these changes successfully.

Two Hour Parent Training – Curriculum Standard, Driving Instruction Log

The parent or guardian of a 16/17 year old Learner Permit holder is required to take a two hour parent training session with their teen, which is now included in the eight hour Safe Driving Course. Enclosed is a copy of the new CT DMV Two Hour Parent Training Curriculum Standard for your use in developing the Two Hour Parent Training module. One of the topics included in the Curriculum Standard is the Parent/Guardian Driving Instruction Log, a copy of which is also enclosed. Both of these documents, and other related resources and materials are available on the DMV Center for Safe Teen Driving website. (<http://ct.gov/teendriving>). This component is to be incorporated without additional cost to the student or parent.

The Curriculum Standard refers to the Risk Awareness Perception Training (RAPT-3), which is a self-guided exercise we recommend parents and teens review and practice at home. RAPT-3 is an interactive training tool developed by University of Massachusetts-Amherst Engineering Professor Donald Fisher. The training offers hazardous driving scenarios to teach teens and other novice drivers how to anticipate and safely navigate such situations. CT DMV will soon provide RAPT-3 to each Driving School on a CD so that your instructors are familiar with the training.¹ The curriculum standard only requires the driving schools to introduce the RAPT-3 training, not preview or offer examples of it. RAPT-3 will be available to parents and teens through a link on the DMV Center for Safe Teen Driving website.

¹ You may view RAPT-3 now at www.ecs.umass.edu/hpl From the Human Performance Laboratory “Welcome” Screen, click on “For Parents/Drivers”, then click on “Go To Version 3.0”.

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25 Question Knowledge Test – Driving School Administered Tests

The enclosed teen driving training steps illustration (“DMV’s Recommended Steps for Teen Driver Training”) may help to resolve some of the driving school industry questions about the sequence of the new procedures to obtain a graduated license. While DMV will be administering a one-time 25 question knowledge test at the time a teen applies for a learner permit, we also encourage the schools to administer tests to students periodically as part of the classroom training. We recommend that students avoid practice driving (on-the-road) until they show proficiency in the class material in the driver manual.

All Adult “First Time” Drivers – October 1, 2008 / 8 Hour Safe Driving Course

In addition, the 2008 Connecticut General Assembly adopted a requirement effective October 1, 2008, that **all** adults(18 years-old and older) who have never held a license in Connecticut or any other state must take an eight-hour Safe Driving Course prior to being licensed to drive by the DMV. Please plan your operations and resources to prepare for this new law.

As always, we welcome your input, comments, and suggestions.

Very truly yours,

Lynn C. Blackwell
Division Chief 1
Division of License Integrity & Standards