

Motor Carrier Connection



Summer 2025 Newsletter for Motor Carriers from the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles.

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Upcoming Dates:

July 1: IRS begins accepting 2290 Heavy Vehicle Use Tax filings (due by Aug. 31, 2025)

July 31: 2nd Quarter IFTA taxes due

Oct. 15: Motor Carriers Workshop in Upstate Region

New Driver's License Process

The South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles will begin issuing redesigned driver's licenses, beginner's permits, and identification cards this fall featuring advanced security features and upgraded materials to better safeguard customer identities and personal information.

The updated cards will be made from stronger materials and incorporate state-of-the-art printing techniques, including laser engraving, making them significantly more resistant to counterfeiting.

As part of the change, the SCDMV will also centralize the production of all licenses, permits, and ID cards — a process already adopted in at least 45 states and the District of Columbia. Central issuance will enhance service efficiency and allow for the inclusion of high-level security elements previously not feasible on South Carolina-issued credentials.

Beginning this fall, customers will still apply for licenses or ID cards in person at SCDMV branches, presenting required documentation and completing applicable testing. However, under the new process, customers will receive a temporary driving certificate or identification certificate valid for driving, voting, and other uses while awaiting their permanent card to arrive by U.S. mail. Existing cards will be returned to customers with a hole punched through them and may continue to serve as temporary photo identification where accepted.

A temporary commercial driving certificate or temporary commercial learner's permit will be acceptable for operating a commercial motor vehicle.

Important reminders for customers:

- No immediate action is required — current South Carolina driver's licenses and identification cards remain valid until their listed expiration dates.
- Customers nearing expiration are encouraged not to wait until the last day to renew, as centrally issued cards will take 7–15 business days to arrive by mail.
- The SCDMV sends renewal notices by mail 90 days prior to expiration to help ensure timely renewal.
- Prices for licenses and identification cards will remain the same.

What You Need to Know About the New Hands-Free Law in South Carolina

This message is from the SC Department of Public Safety:

Starting Sept. 1, 2025, South Carolina will be a hands-free state! The new hands-free law requires drivers to put down their phones, tablets, and other electronic devices while driving and keep their focus on the road.

Under the Hands-Free and Distracted Driving Law, drivers are not allowed to:

- Hold or support a mobile device with any part of their body.*

- Use a mobile device to read, compose, or transmit texts, emails, app interactions, or website information.
- Watch motion on a mobile device, including a video, movie, game, or video call.

* This does not prohibit the use of an earpiece or device worn on the wrist used for voice-based communication.

Penalties for violating this law include the following:

- First offense: \$100 fine
- Second and subsequent offenses: \$200 fine and two points on driver's license

Exceptions to the hands-free law include using a device in hands-free mode; using a device while legally stopped; or to report a wreck, emergency, or safety hazard to a public safety official.

To read more about South Carolina's hands-free law, visit [Hands Free SC | SCDPS](#).

2nd Quarter Tax Return

The 2nd Quarter tax filing period has begun. You can file online or visit your local branch office. Best practice: Have your distance logs ready. If filing in-person, bring your IFTA-3 form along with your distance and fuel summaries to avoid delays.

Distance Logs & Maintaining Records

Keep mileage logs for at least 5 years for audit purposes. Logs may be typed, ELD, or handwritten, but must include:

- Date range for the quarter or renewal reporting period
- Vehicle information (VIN/Unit #)
- Total miles and fuel per jurisdiction
- Overall total miles and fuel for the quarter or renewal period
- Company name and customer number.

2290 Compliance (55,000 lbs. or More)

Filing for IRS Form 2290 (Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax Return) starts July 1 and is due by Aug. 31. Starting Sept. 1, only 2025-2026 2290 forms will be accepted to process any IRP and IFTA transactions.

Audit Compliance

Record Retention:

IFTA: Retain records four years from the filing or due date (whichever is later).

IRP: Retain distance records for three years after the close of the registration year.

Declaration:

By signing MC-7, customers agree to maintain complete records per IRP and IFTA requirements. Incomplete records may result in:

- IFTA - Disallowance of tax-paid fuel credits, MPG adjustments (down to 4.00 MPG), or reductions by 20 percent
- IRP - Assessments of 20, 50, or 100 percent of apportioned fees for inadequate records.

'Under the Hood' Waiver

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has announced the renewal for two years of the exemption allowing commercial driver's license applicants seeking a school bus endorsement to forgo the engine compartment portion of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills testing requirement, known informally as the "under the hood" testing requirement. That exemption has been extended to Nov. 28, 2026.

The SCDMV will not be conducting tests that offer this exemption until December 2025.

Drivers issued CDLs under this exemption are restricted to intrastate operation of school buses only.

Quick Tips for Online Transactions

New Applicants: Have **30 business days** after approval notice to pay for supplements (online, mail, or in branch). After 30 days, supplements will be deleted, and reapplication is required.

Current & Returning Customers: Have **5 business days** to pay. After 5 days, supplements are deleted, and you must restart the transaction online.

Reminders

Blythewood Office Closure: The SCDMV Blythewood customer service office is now closed (the agency is keeping its headquarters in Blythewood). Motor Carrier services are being offered now at the Columbia-O'Neil Court office, along with Irmo, North Augusta, Greer, Chester, Dillon, Kingstree and St. George. There also are numerous services that can be accessed at [SCDMVonline.com](https://www.scdmvonline.com).

Text/SMS Scam Alert: SCDMV does not collect toll fees or contact customers via text messages. Do not click on any suspicious links.

*If you have any questions, please reach out to us at MCSHQ@scdmv.net or 803-896-3870.
Stay compliant and safe on the road!*