

MVD Procedural Quick Update

#98

RE: No Hole-Punch of Current License When Issuing a Permit
Effective date: Monday, August 31, 2009

Date: August 26, 2009
To: All MVD
From: Mac Lewis, MVD Policy and Procedures Manager

[This is the latest in a series of procedural updates. These updates deal with specific MVD procedures and practices. Managers and Supervisors should consistently distribute the updates to all personnel and integrate them into regular information and training sessions.]

When issuing a permit to a customer who holds a current New Mexico driver's license, the current license continues to be valid. The current license is not surrendered and should not be hole-punched.

PQU#60 (Surrender of Prior License – Hole Punch) provides that every prior license or ID, “when surrendered for a new, renewal or replacement New Mexico license or ID, is to have one hole punched through the license.”

That requirement is not changed. However, it does not apply when a permit is issued to a customer who holds, and seeks to upgrade, a current New Mexico driver's license. Some examples:

- The driver holds a current non-commercial license and is applying for a CDL. A permit is required while the driver is qualifying for the CDL.
- The driver holds a current CDL and is applying for an upgrade (higher class CDL or added endorsement) that requires a permit while the driver is qualifying for the upgrade.
- The driver holds a current non-commercial license or CDL and wants to add a motorcycle endorsement. A motorcycle permit is required while the driver is qualifying for the endorsement.

In any of those cases, the current license continues to be valid. When the addition of a permit is necessary to allow the individual to qualify for an upgrade (to a higher class of license or to add an endorsement), the individual will for a time hold two valid cards – the license and the permit.

When, however, the individual has met all conditions for issuance of a new license, PQU#60 does apply. Both cards are surrendered and should be hole-punched when the new, upgraded license is issued.

What about a CDL driver moving to New Mexico from another jurisdiction with a hazmat endorsement or with a school bus endorsement that was obtained before September 2005? Because neither of those two endorsements is transferable from state to state, the driver has no option but to get a New Mexico CDL without the school bus or hazmat endorsement (no permit is available or necessary), then return when he or she has met all of the requirements to add the endorsement to the New Mexico CDL.

Field office managers and supervisors should refer any comments or questions regarding this Procedural Quick Update to their Bureau Chiefs, with cc to mac.lewis@state.nm.us. Others are encouraged to direct comments or questions directly to Mac Lewis.
