



Department of Administration

Division of Motor Vehicles

Guide to Rural Driving Information

Living in a remote community comes with many challenges. One of the challenges facing Alaska's rural youth is finding employment. Many career choices require a driver license as a condition of employment or for entry into an apprenticeship program.

The Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offers additional services for you as a resident of an [Alaskan rural community](#). Many states have rural residents; however, no other state has as many rural communities separated from connecting road systems (off-highway).

This guide and the [State of Alaska's Driver Manuals](#) will provide you with information on how to get an off-highway driver license in your home community.

Please note: When you do not have a digital photo taken at a local DMV office, the license photo will be replaced with the phrase [Valid Without Photo](#).

What Kind of Driver License Can I Get?

As an Alaska resident in a communities without a local DMV, you can apply for an Off-Highway licenses through the mail.

An Off-Highway license allows an individual to drive on roads that are not connected to the State highway system and on roads that are not connected to a highway or vehicular way with an average daily traffic volume greater than 499.

In Alaska you can get the following:

- [Non-commercial](#)
- [Commercial \(CDL\)](#)

How do I get an off-highway driver's license?

You must complete all licensing requirements except for the skills (road) test. If you are 18 or older and have never had a driver license, you can apply for an Off-Highway Class D license. You are required to:

- Pass the written test (contact a [Proctor in your area](#))
- Pass a vision test
- Pay the [fee](#)
- Provide original legal documents verifying date of birth, social security number and identity
- No skills (road) test is required.

After completing the written test, you mail an [Application for Remote Area Driver License, Permit or ID Card \(Form 480\)](#) and your supporting documents to:

Juneau Driver Services
State of Alaska
Division of Motor Vehicles
PO Box 110221
Juneau AK 99811-0221

Please note: Any DMV Office can issue your license, if you are visiting a community with a [DMV Office](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do, if I am younger than 16?
What do I do, if I am younger than 18?
What do I do, when I turn 18?

How do I Remove the Off-Highway Restriction?

The Off-Highway restriction can be removed at any time following the successful completion of a [road test](#) at a DMV office or at a Third Party Testing Provider. Further information about road tests and required equipment can be found in the [driver manual](#).

The restricted license must be surrendered and a duplicate license issued after successfully passing the required road test.

What Is A Valid Without Photo License?

Alaska DMV offers Valid Without Photo Licenses for rural residents living in Alaska that do not have access to a DMV office. These licenses are issued to applicants who are issued a driver's license and have not previously had a digital photo taken at a DMV office. This license may or may not be restricted to only Off-Highway areas depending whether the skill (road) test requirement has been met.

How Do I Apply Replace or Renew My Driver License From Rural Alaska?

Rural residents may apply for or replace a lost license or renew their license through the mail. The driver must submit by mail a completed [Application for Remote Area Driver License, Permit or ID Card \(Form 480\)](#) for a non-commercial driver's license or [Form 418](#) for a commercial driver's license and mail with all requirements to Juneau Driver Services. Applicants must pass a vision test, pay the appropriate licensing [fee](#), and surrender their existing license or submit original identity documentation. Commercial driver applicants will need to submit [Form 413](#) Driver Self Certification Form and may need to submit a DOT medical card along with the other application requirements listed on [Form 418](#).

Juneau Driver Services
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Alaska Driver Manual

Off-Highway (Rural) Driving Resources

- Off-Highway Licenses ►
 - Remove Off-Highway Restriction ►
 - Valid Without Photo ►
 - Replace/Renew a Rural License ►
 - Remote Alaska Title Procedures ►
 - Community List ►
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