

Central Issuance of Driver's Licenses Has Begun

On April 19, the Department of Transportation (DOT) began central issuance of driver licenses and non-operator ID cards. This does not require any change for the person who renews their license or is getting a license for the first time, but it will allow the department to provide a license in a more secure manner.

The same places that offered driver licenses and ID cards before April 19 will still offer them. The only change is that a person no longer walks out with that new license or ID card. Instead, they will walk out with their old license or ID card (if they had one), and a temporary paper license or ID card. The new license or ID card will be received through the mail in an unidentified envelope within thirty days.

Important Image Security Check

DOT says image verification is an important security check that takes too long to do while a customer waits, but is too important for the department not to do. This is a check of certain facial features on the digital photo against all others in the database. By doing this, it eliminates the same person getting more than one license, under different names, with a different hair cut or other small change.

The new licenses and ID cards will be made with more resilient and durable materials. This type of update has happened at various times in the past as upgrades and better materials are made available.

Iowans do not need to get their license renewed before their expiration date just because DOT is now doing central issuance. Everyone's license or ID card is good until the expiration date. Central issuance is used in 22 other states and each state has experienced success.

For more information about central issuance, visit www.iowadot.gov/centralissuance/