

Q. and A. for those who rely on SCDMV-issued identity documents

Q. What documents will customers have in their possession as they wait for their new beginner's permit, driver's license, or ID card to come in the mail?

A. Customers will leave an SCDMV office with a temporary driving certificate (TDC) if they will receive a permit or license or a temporary identification certificate (TIC) if they are awaiting an ID card. These certificates include their picture and other identifying information found like a regular card. It also has a scannable barcode that will provide the personalization you see on the front. In most cases, customers will receive their new license or ID card in 7 to 15 business days via USPS.

Q. Will customers waiting on a new card have their most recent license or ID card to use?

A. Yes, if customers have a card, whether it's from South Carolina or another state, the SCDMV will hole punch and return it to the customer. Customers should carry both the hole-punched card and the temporary certificate with them while awaiting the new card in the mail.

Q. Will these temporary certificates suffice for businesses seeking to verify that a customer is old enough to buy tobacco or alcohol?

A. The temporary certificates are valid in South Carolina for the purposes of driving (if a TDC) or voting in an election. Businesses and retailers must make their own decision on whether to accept them for age verification, including whether to accept a hole-punched card presented alongside a temporary certificate.

Q. Will the under 21 license and ID card continue to be printed in a vertical format for easier identification?

A. Yes, that format will continue. The new design of U21 cards also list the dates when the customer turns 18 and 21.

Q. Can businesses still scan the barcode on the back of the license?

A. The barcode will be available to scan as before. A portion of the barcode on the hard cards (not the temporaries) is encrypted and will not read legibly during a standard scan. If you must read the encrypted element, reach out to the SCDMV via email at DataRequest@SCDMV.net. The SCDMV will be proactively providing documents to barcode verification providers.