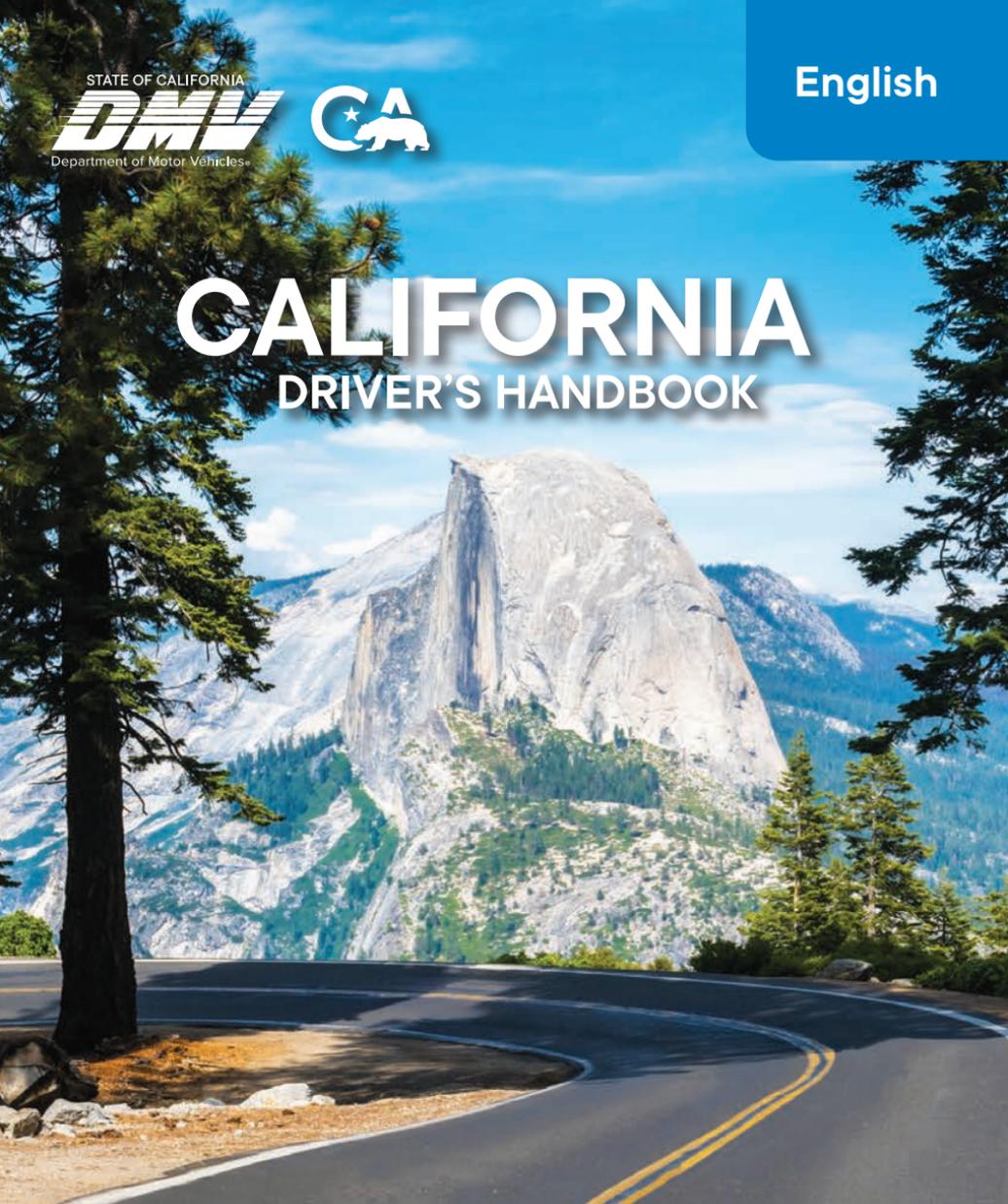


CALIFORNIA

DRIVER'S HANDBOOK



This handbook is available at
dmv.ca.gov



Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Toks Omishakin, Secretary
California State Transportation Agency

Steve Gordon, Director
California Department of Motor Vehicles

We know your time is *valuable*

GOONLINE
dmv.ca.gov/online

- Renew driver's license and vehicle registration
- Replace sticker or registration
- Change address
- Request driver's record
- Request vehicle record
- And more...



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DMV
Department of Motor Vehicles

Dear fellow Californian,

All who use our streets, roads and highways must follow and understand the rules of the road. Whether driving a car, motorcycle, commercial vehicle or riding a bicycle, it is critical we adhere to the rules to share the road safely and responsibly.

The California Driver's Handbook is available in nine languages and offers valuable information for Californians who are getting their driver's license for the first time or seasoned drivers who wish to update their knowledge of traffic rules.

A driver's license offers the opportunity to travel to essential services, a favorite vacation spot, education, loved ones and more—and to do so well into one's golden years. It also enables truck drivers to transport goods and services to support our economy.

The driver's license application can be started from the comfort of home by visiting the DMV website at dmv.ca.gov. Due to the department's expanding online services, most DMV transactions can be completed on this site. Some of these transactions include driver's license renewal, vehicle registration and others. The DMV has been modernizing interactions with its customers, making Californians' digital experience easier, faster and more convenient. Try online first, as it can be a timesaver.

Remember that driving or riding is a privilege, and above all, safety must be the priority. Always buckle up, follow traffic laws, pay attention to other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, and put down that cell phone when behind the wheel or handlebars. Do not operate a vehicle, motorcycle or bicycle while distracted or impaired—it could mean the difference between life and death.

Wishing you safe journeys,



Toks Omishakin

Secretary

California State Transportation Agency



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Disclaimer

This handbook is a summary of the laws and regulations in the *Vehicle Code* available at [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](https://leginfo.ca.gov). DMV, law enforcement, and the courts follow the full, exact language.

Contact Us

Send comments or suggestions for this driver’s handbook to dmv.ca.gov/customer-service.

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DMV SERVICES

Have your driver's license or identification (ID) card number, vehicle license plate number, or vehicle identification number (VIN) available.

Online Services

Vehicle Registration Renewal at dmv.ca.gov/vrservices.

Driver's License Renewal at dmv.ca.gov/dlservices.

Office Appointments at dmv.ca.gov/make-an-appointment.

Visit dmv.ca.gov/online to find many other online services.

Kiosk Services

Visit dmv.ca.gov/kiosks to find kiosk services and locations.

Phone Services

Call 1-800-777-0133.

During Normal Business Hours:

- Talk to a DMV representative.

Automated 24/7 Phone Services:

- Renew your vehicle registration.
- Make a DMV office appointment.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired may call 1-800-368-4327 for assistance.

SECTION 1. *The California Driver's License*

A California driver's license allows you to drive on public roads.

Before you can get a driver's license in California, you are required to pass the knowledge and behind-the-wheel drive tests based on information in this handbook.

You must have the correct license to drive your vehicle type. Most people need a noncommercial Class C driver's license. To operate commercial vehicles, motorcycles, and other types of vehicles, you must have a different class of license.

For information on vehicles covered by a Class C, visit dmv.ca.gov/dl.

CARD DESIGNATIONS

REAL ID Driver's License

Beginning May 2025, your driver's license, or identification (ID) card must be REAL ID compliant if you use it to:

- Board an airplane for domestic flights.
- Enter military bases.
- Enter most federal facilities.

Visit dmv.ca.gov/realid to learn more about applying for a REAL ID.

Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Residents

California offers driver's licenses for all residents regardless of immigration status. For more information, visit dmv.ca.gov/dl.

Organ and Tissue Donor

For information, visit donateLIFECalifornia.org.

Veterans

Visit dmv.ca.gov/veterans to learn more about the requirements and benefits of a Veteran designation.

ID Cards

ID cards are issued for identification purposes to eligible persons of any age. They do not permit you to drive. To get an ID, you must provide your identity document, residency documents, and social security number.

Visit dmv.ca.gov/id-cards to complete an ID card application and get information on current acceptable documents and reduced-fee, no-fee, or senior ID cards.