

## SECTION 5: HEARING IMPAIRED

**Hearing Impaired Applicants.** Prior to beginning the skills test the examiner and the hearing-impaired applicant must establish a non-verbal method of communication. The examiner must be careful to choose a method of communication that will allow the applicant to be fairly tested without compromising the test integrity. The examiner should allow the applicant to read the instruction directly from the instruction sheet. If the applicant needs clarification, the examiner may communicate on paper or by using illustrations and hand signals. Sample cue cards are provided in Appendix D-1. Organizations and examiners are encouraged to create additional cue cards appropriate for their road test route.

**Interpreters for Hearing Impaired Applicants.** The applicant may use an interpreter who is at least 16 years old. However, the examiner must explain to the interpreter that he or she may only translate each set of skills tests instructions as they are given. The interpreter will also translate any narrative given by the applicant during the driving skills test simulations. Additional communication between the applicant and interpreter beyond what is required will not be permitted except in an emergency. The interpreter must be advised that the first instance of unnecessary communication with the applicant will result in a warning. The second instance will cause the applicant to fail the test. Due to the complexity of the testing process, extra time should be allotted to administer the driving skills test to a hearing impaired applicant.

If the applicant chooses not to provide their own interpreter, it is the responsibility of the driver testing business to provide one. A list of State of Michigan approved interpreters can be found on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website.

The fee for department approved interpreters for the hearing impaired is reimbursed by the Department of State. The department will not reimburse an applicant's friend or family member. Contact an analyst for assistance with the reimbursement procedures.

## SECTION 6: PHYSICAL DISABILITIES AND LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

Examiners may encounter applicants who cannot pass the complete road test as designed but may have enough skill to obtain a “limited license”. For example, an applicant may drive safely throughout the entire road test but fail the test because he or she could not safely handle expressway driving. This applicant may be eligible for a limited license that includes a restriction for “no expressway driving” (restriction code 34). However, the skills test examiner does not have the authority to add or remove this restriction. These applicants should be referred to a Driver Assessment analyst. Driver Assessment analysts have the authority to grant limited license privileges. These limited licenses are based on a review of the applicant’s skills test performance, medical examination and other information. SOS offices have information on the availability and location of these analysts.

However, there are some restrictions that can be added or removed by examiners. When testing an applicant with physical disabilities, he or she must be able to perform the road test as designed. Driver testing examiners do not have the authority to modify the test from its present form. If an applicant claims to have a condition that qualifies for a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, examiners should contact the DTS. An analyst will decide whether an accommodation will be made and provide guidance on how to make the accommodation.

**Adding Adaptive Equipment.** Some applicants can pass the standard road test, but only with the aid of “adaptive equipment” (i.e. hand controls, cushions, pedal extensions, etc.). Examiners are authorized to add adaptive equipment restrictions to a driver’s license if the equipment is present on the vehicle and the examiner believes the equipment is fundamental to the safe operation of the vehicle. For example, if an applicant uses hand controls during a successful completion of the driving skills test, the examiner must write the statement, “Passed automobile skills test with 05 restriction – Special steering knob” on the final license line of the skills test certificate.

**Removing Adaptive Equipment.** If an applicant possesses a valid license with “adaptive equipment” restriction(s) but wishes to have these restriction(s) removed, he or she must obtain an unrestricted TIP from the SOS office prior to skills testing. In order for the examiner to conduct a legal skills test, the TIP must allow the applicant to practice driving without the designated restriction(s). If the applicant passes the skills test without using the adaptive equipment, the examiner will issue a skills test certificate that indicates a full license with no restrictions.

Please see the list of restrictions listed on the next page.

**MICHIGAN DRIVER LICENSE RESTRICTION CODES**

The following list identifies the most common automobile and motorcycle driver license restrictions that examiners may add or remove.

<b>MICHIGAN DRIVER LICENSE RESTRICTIONS</b>	
01	Artificial Arm
02	Artificial Arms
03	Artificial Leg
04	Artificial Legs
05	Special Steering Knob
06	Turn Signal Extension
08	Cushions
09	Foot Pedal Extension
10	All Hand Controls
12	Hand Operated Brake
13	Hand Operated Clutch
15	Accelerator on Left Side
20	Not Valid for 2-Wheel Cycle
21	Steering Knob Power Steering
25	Hand Operated Accelerator