

# Visual requirements for a driver's license

by  
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These are recommendations that have been submitted by a working committee to Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalanraya.

***The criteria have not yet been officially endorsed.***

However, as there have been numerous inquiries on this matter, the MSO is posting this as a general guide and reference for Eye Doctors in Malaysia .

	Private vehicle/personal license	Public vehicle/ Commercial drive
Vision	Better than 6/12 <u>in at least one eye</u>	Better than 6/12 <u>in both the eyes</u>
Visual Field	Binocular visual field has an extent of at least 120° along the horizontal meridian and 20 ° above and below the horizontal midline.	Binocular visual field has an extent of at least 120° along the horizontal meridian and 20 ° above and below the horizontal midline.
Colour Vision	No restriction on license	<u>Not qualified</u> if severe protanopia ( severe red –defect) is present
Diplopia	Not qualified if diplopia is present within the central 40° primary gaze	Not qualified if diplopia is present within the central 40° primary gaze
Night blindness	No restriction on license.	<u>Not qualified</u>

# Conditions that may affect the ability to drive safely

1. Neurological disorders, e.g. stroke - homonymous or bitemporal visual field defect
2. Diplopia, unless corrected with glasses or an eye patch
3. Pharmacologically-dilated pupil  
This usually does not affect distant vision; it is permissible to drive if patient can see distant clearly
4. Padding of one eye post –operatively
5. Uncorrected distant vision - advise the patient to wear corrective glasses when driving

# The role of eye doctors in matters relating to driving licenses

- The Eye Doctor's opinion is often sought in matters relating to :
  - The approval of driving licenses for private or commercial vehicles, including annual renewals
  - Professional views in the court of law in cases of road traffic accidents
  - Compensation for victims of motor vehicle accidents, including insurance claims



# What does the Doctor do with a patient who is not safe to drive but who refuses to give up driving?

- Considerations
  - It is necessary to protect the patient's confidentiality
  - It is the driver's responsibility to inform the JPJ of any vision problem
- Suggestion
  - Counsel patients on road safety for oneself and other road users
  - Document in the patient's medical record that counseling has been done, and record any decision made