

STATE OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Pursuant to the authority contained in Sections 215(a), 501(2)(c), 510(6), 1193(2)(b)(12), 1193(2)(c)(1) and 1194(2)(d)(1) of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles hereby amends the Regulations of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles as follows:

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Paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 136.1 is amended to read as follows:

(3) History of abuse of alcohol or drugs. A history of abuse of alcohol or drugs shall consist of a record of two or more incidents, within a [10] 25 year period, of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcoholic beverages and/or drugs or of refusing to submit to a chemical test not arising out of the same incident, whether such incident was committed within or outside of this state.

Subdivision (b) of section 136.4 is amended and a new subdivision (b-1) is added to read as follows:

(b)(1) An [applicant] application for a driver's license [shall] may be denied if a review of the entire driving history provides evidence that the applicant constitutes a problem driver, as defined in section 136.1(b)(1) of this Part. If an application is denied pursuant to this paragraph, no application shall be considered for a minimum of one year from the date of denial. In lieu of such denial, the applicant may be issued a license or permit with a problem driver restriction, as set forth in section 3.2(c)(4) of this Chapter and paragraph (2) of this subdivision.

(2) Upon the approval of an application for relicensing of a person who is deemed a problem driver under this subdivision, the Commissioner may impose a problem driver restriction on such person's license or permit, as set forth in section 3.2(c)(4) of this Title. As a component of this restriction, the Commissioner may require such person to install an ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle owned or operated by such person. The ignition interlock requirement will be noted on the attachment to the driver license or permit held by such person. Such attachment must be carried at all times with the driver license or permit.

(3) Revocation of license or permit with problem driver restriction. A license or permit that contains a problem driver restriction shall be revoked (i) upon the holder's conviction of a traffic violation or combination of violations, committed while such restriction is in effect, which the Commissioner deems serious in nature; or (ii) for the holder's failure to install and maintain an ignition interlock device in motor vehicles owned or operated by the holder, when required to do so under such restriction. The attachment, provided for in paragraph (2) of this subdivision, shall set forth the violation or violations that will result in such a revocation. A

revocation for any of the above reasons shall be issued without a hearing based upon receipt of a certificate or certificates of conviction. The Commissioner may also revoke a license or permit with a problem driver restriction, without a hearing, upon receipt of a certificate of conviction that indicates that the applicant has driven in violation of the conditions of such restriction.

(4) Employer vehicle. A person required to operate a motor vehicle owned by such person's employer in the course and scope of his or her employment may operate that vehicle without installation of an ignition interlock device only in the course and scope of such employment and only if such person carries in the motor vehicle written documentation indicating the employer has knowledge of the restriction imposed and has granted permission for the person to operate the employer's vehicle without the device only for business purposes. Such documentation shall display the employer's letterhead and have an authorized signature of the employer. A motor vehicle owned by a business entity that is wholly or partly owned or controlled by a person subject to the problem driver restriction is not a motor vehicle owned by the employer for purposes of the exemption provided in this paragraph and shall be deemed to be owned by the person subject to the problem driver restriction.

(b-1) An application for a driver's license may be denied if the applicant has been convicted of a violation of section 125.10, 125.12, 125.13, 125.14, 125.15, 125.20, 125.22, 125.25, 125.26 or 125.27 of the Penal Law arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle, or if the applicant has been convicted of a violation of section 1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law where death or serious physical injury, as defined in section 10.00 of the Penal Law, has resulted from such offense.

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Section 136.5 is amended to read as follows:

136.5 [Miscellaneous grounds for denial.] Special rules for applicants with multiple alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions or incidents.

[(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part, two convictions for driving while intoxicated, with personal injury involvement in each, regardless of the extent of such injury, shall result in a denial of an application.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part, the Commissioner may deny an application where the revocation sought to be terminated was imposed as a result of a conviction for a violation of section 125.10, 125.12, 125.13, 125.14, 125.15, 125.20, 125.22, 125.25, 125.26 or 125.27 of the Penal Law arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle, or a conviction for a violation of section 1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law which resulted in a death or serious injury, as defined in section 10.00 of the Penal Law. The ground for such denial shall be set forth in writing and a copy shall be made available to the applicant.]

(a) For the purposes of this section:

(1) “Alcohol- or drug-related driving conviction or incident” means any of the following, not arising out of the same incident: (i) a conviction of a violation of section 1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law or an out-of-state conviction for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs; (ii) a finding of a violation of section 1192-a of the Vehicle and Traffic Law; provided, however, that no such finding shall be considered after the expiration of the retention period contained in paragraph (k) of subdivision 1 of section 201 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law; (iii) a conviction of an offense under the Penal Law for which a violation of section 1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law is an essential element; or (iv) a finding of refusal to submit to a chemical test under section 1194 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

(2) “Serious driving offense” means (i) a fatal accident; (ii) a driving-related Penal Law conviction; (iii) conviction of two or more violations for which five or more points are assessed on a violator’s driving record pursuant to Section 131.3 of this subchapter; or (iv) 20 or more points from any violations.

(3) “25 year look back period” means the period commencing upon the date that is 25 years before the date of the revocable offense and ending on and including the date of the revocable offense.

(4) “Revocable offense” means the violation, incident or accident that results in the revocation of the person’s drivers license and which is the basis of the application for relicensing. Upon reviewing an application for relicensing, the Commissioner shall review the applicant’s entire driving record and evaluate any offense committed between the date of the revocable offense and the date of application as if it had been committed immediately prior to the date of the revocable offense. For purposes of this section, “date of the revocable offense” means the date of the earliest revocable offense that resulted in a license revocation for which the revocation has not been terminated by the Commissioner’s subsequent approval of an application for relicensing.

(b) Upon receipt of a person’s application for relicensing, the Commissioner shall conduct a lifetime review of such person’s driving record. If the record review shows that:

(1) the person has five or more alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions or incidents in any combination within his or her lifetime, then the Commissioner shall deny the application.

(2) the person has three or four alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions or incidents in any combination within the 25 year look back period and, in addition, has one or more serious driving offenses within the 25 year look back period, then the Commissioner shall deny the application.

(3) (i) the person has three or four alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions or incidents in any combination within the 25 year look back period but no serious driving offenses within the 25 year look back period and (ii) the person is currently revoked for an alcohol- or drug-related driving conviction or incident, then the Commissioner shall deny the application for at least five years after which time the person may submit an application for relicensing. Such

waiting period shall be in addition to the revocation period imposed pursuant to the Vehicle and Traffic Law. After such waiting period, the Commissioner may in his or her discretion approve the application, provided that upon such approval, the Commissioner shall impose the A2 restriction on such person's license for a period of five years and shall require the installation of an ignition interlock device in any motor vehicle owned or operated by such person for such five-year period. If such license with an A2 restriction is later revoked for a subsequent alcohol- or drug-related driving conviction or incident, such person shall thereafter be ineligible for any kind of license to operate a motor vehicle.

(4) (i) the person has three or four alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions or incidents in any combination within the 25 year look back period but no serious driving offenses within the 25 year look back period and (ii) the person is not currently revoked as the result of an alcohol- or drug-related driving conviction or incident, then the Commissioner shall deny the application for at least two years, after which time the person may submit an application for relicensing. Such waiting period shall be in addition to the revocation period imposed pursuant to the Vehicle and Traffic Law. After such waiting period, the Commissioner may in his or her discretion approve the application, provided that upon such approval, the Commissioner shall impose an A2 restriction, with no ignition interlock requirement, for a period of two years. If such license with an A2 restriction is later revoked for a subsequent alcohol- or drug-related driving conviction or incident, such person shall thereafter be ineligible for any kind of license to operate a motor vehicle.

(5) the person has two alcohol- or drug-related driving convictions or incidents in any combination within the 25 year look back period, then the Commissioner may in his or her discretion approve the application after the minimum statutory revocation period is served.

(6) the person has been twice convicted of a violation of subdivision three, four or four-a of section 1192 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law or of driving while intoxicated or of driving while ability is impaired by the use of a drug or of driving while ability is impaired by the combined influence of drugs or of alcohol and any drug or drugs where physical injury, as defined in section 10.00 of the Penal Law, has resulted from such offense in each instance, then the Commissioner shall deny the application.

(c) The grounds for any denial shall be set forth in writing and a copy shall be made available to the person making the application for relicensing.

(d) While it is the Commissioner's general policy to act on applications in accordance with this section, the Commissioner shall not be foreclosed from consideration of unusual, extenuating and compelling circumstances that may be presented for review and which may form a valid basis to deviate from the general policy, as set forth above, in the exercise of discretionary authority granted under sections 510 and 1193 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. If an application is approved based upon the exercise of such discretionary authority, the reasons for approval shall be set forth in writing and recorded.

(e) If, after an application for relicensing is approved, the Commissioner receives information that indicates that such application should have been denied, the Commissioner shall rescind such approval and the license granted shall be revoked.

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Section 136.10 is amended to read as follows:

136.10 Application for relicensing.

(a) Application by the holder of a post-revocation conditional license. Upon the termination of the period of probation set by the court, the holder of a post-revocation conditional license may apply to the Commissioner for restoration of a license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle. An application for licensure [shall] may be approved if the applicant demonstrates that he or she:

- [(a)](1) has a valid post-revocation conditional license; and
- [(b)](2) has demonstrated evidence of rehabilitation as required by this Part.

(b) Application after permanent revocation. The Commissioner may waive the permanent revocation of a driver’s license, pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law section 1193(2)(b)(12)(b) and (e), only if the statutorily required waiting period of either five or eight years has expired since the imposition of the permanent revocation and, during such period, the applicant has not been found to have refused to submit to a chemical test pursuant to Vehicle and Traffic Law section 1194 and has not been convicted of any violation of section 1192 or section 511 of such law or a violation of the Penal Law for which a violation of any subdivision of such section 1192 is an essential element. In addition, the waiver shall be granted only if:

(1) The applicant presents proof of successful completion of a rehabilitation program approved by the Commissioner within one year prior to the date of the application for the waiver; provided, however, if the applicant completed such program before such time, the applicant must present proof of completion of an alcohol and drug dependency assessment within one year of the date of application for the waiver; and

(2) The applicant submits to the Commissioner a certificate of relief from civil disabilities or a certificate of good conduct pursuant to Article 23 of the Correction Law; and

(3) The application is not denied pursuant to section 136.4 or section 136.5 of this Part; and

(4) There are no incidents of driving during the period prior to the application for the waiver, as indicated by accidents, convictions or pending tickets. The consideration of an application for a waiver when the applicant has a pending ticket shall be held in abeyance until such ticket is disposed of by the court or tribunal.

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