



Thailand to Introduce Online Driving Licence Renewals

Thailand's Department of Land Transport (DLT), in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), plans to introduce an online system for renewing driving licences starting in June 2026. The initiative aims to improve public service efficiency and reduce congestion at transport offices. According to the DLT, motorists under the age of 55 whose licences have not expired for more than one year will be eligible to renew their licences electronically without having to visit a transport office for a physical fitness test.

The reform is intended to address the large number of licence renewal applications each year, which exceed 2.5 million for private cars and motorcycles. By allowing eligible drivers to complete the process online, the government aims to reduce unnecessary travel and provide services that better align with the country's digital transformation efforts.

To support the new system, the DLT will establish an electronic document-sharing model with the MOPH through an API linkage. This system will enable real-time verification of electronic medical certificates issued by public hospitals, ensuring the authenticity and accuracy of required documents. However, during the initial phase, the system may be limited to medical documents issued by hospitals operated by the MOPH rather than private clinics.

Although the renewal process will become more convenient, certain safety requirements will remain in place. Drivers renewing their licences online will still be required to complete a visual aptitude test, particularly for eyesight, though this may not require visiting a transport office. In addition, the DLT is working with medical professionals to revise physical fitness testing guidelines to ensure that all drivers continue to meet standardized health and safety requirements.

Overall, the initiative reflects the government's broader efforts to modernise public administration and promote digital government services. By integrating technology and inter-agency data systems, the new online renewal platform is expected to enhance convenience for citizens while maintaining regulatory oversight and road safety standards.