

New NSW RTA Photo Card



Launched in mid December 2005, a new form of identification, the NSW Photo Card is now available through the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).

The Photo Card provides people with access to acceptable photo identity who:

- Do not have a NSW Proof of Age card
- Do not hold a driver licence because they are unable to drive, or choose not to
- Do not hold, or do not wish to carry a passport because of security reasons

NSW residents over 16 years who do not hold a NSW driver's licence or NSW Proof of Age Card, may apply for a Photo Card. Applicants must satisfy the RTA's strict identification requirements, provide proof that they reside in NSW and pay the applicable fee. Photo Cards have an expiry date and are valid for five years.

Further information about the Photo Card and how to apply can be obtained at RTA motor registries or by telephoning the RTA on 13 22 13.

Photo Cards & Evidence of Age

From mid December 2005, licensees and their staff can expect their patrons to start presenting the Photo Card as proof of age. This new card will assist licensed premises prevent minors from purchasing alcohol. The Photo Card is an acceptable evidence of age document for young people accessing licensed venues and alcohol and gaming products.

The Photo Card adds to the documents already recognised as proof of a young person's age:

- Drivers licence
- NSW Proof of Age Card
- Passport.
- (or their interstate / international equivalent)

NSW PROOF OF AGE CARDS

Once the Photo Card is released, the RTA will cease to issue Proof of Age cards. Proof of Age cards already in circulation continue to be valid and recognised as acceptable evidence of age for a further three years.

The Proof of Age Card is being phased out over this time as the Photo Card provides young adults with acceptable proof of age.

It is important to note that Photo Cards will be available to people aged 16 and over. Licensees should have measures in place to prevent minors who have a Photo Card from gaining unlawful liquor supply on their premises.

Tips for Checking Evidence of Age

Regardless of what document you or your staff accept, it is important your venue has practices in place to assist with accepting proof of age / ID documents. Tips for establishing authenticity of a document may include:

- Examine all ID in a well-lit area where alterations will be spotted more easily
- Do not inspect an ID through the window face in a person's wallet - ask them to remove it
- Take the ID from the patron and take your time examining it
- Feel around the photo, birth date and edges of the card, especially a card enclosed in plastic (laminated) – wrinkles, bumps and air bubbles could mean the ID has been altered
- Compare the photo with the patron presenting the ID – do they match? Pay particular attention to distinguishing facial features
- Calculate that the date of birth of the ID does in fact confirm the person is at least 18
- Make sure the ID includes a hologram or other security feature

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