

Mark Sanford
Governor



Marcia S. Adams
Director

State of South Carolina
Department of Motor Vehicles

July 12, 2007

The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell
President Pro Tempore
South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator McConnell:

Yesterday, I received your letter dated July 6, 2007, regarding manuals printed in Spanish that are available in our field offices. Your letter also asked about Spanish language posters provide by other agencies.

Similar questions and concerns were first brought to my attention last year during the 2006 legislative session. You may recall that I attended a meeting on May 24, 2006 in the Blatt Building with you and other members of the Charleston County Delegation to discuss this matter. As I stated then, DMV has not spent any money to produce manuals, posters, brochures, or other material in any language other than English since we became a cabinet agency in 2003.

SCDMV does possess a limited supply of old driver manuals printed in Spanish. However, the Department of Public Safety purchased these manuals in 2002 when Motor Vehicles was a division of that agency. I do not know under whose authority these items were printed. I have attached the expenses for these manuals for your information.

SCDMV also has available knowledge tests in English, Spanish, French and German. These tests are contained in software in our electronic testing machines. Again, these tests were purchased when Motor Vehicles was a division of the Department of Public Safety. I have attached the expenses for these tests for your information.

Other agencies and entities ask DMV to make certain information available to our mutual customers. Some of this information is printed in languages other than English. For example, there are posters related to driving safety printed in Spanish and displayed in branch offices and Donate Life brochures explaining organ donation printed in Spanish and available in our branch offices. The Department of Motor Vehicles does not expend any funds for these items; we merely allow them to be displayed or distributed in our offices.

SCDMV has continued to distribute the 2002 Spanish manuals until the supply is exhausted. Likewise, we will continue to administer the foreign language tests that were purchased previous to the establishment of the Department of Motor Vehicles. These tests often provide an economical and common sense solution when testing a foreign customer who needs a license, such as German BMW employees working at the Greer facility.

We have no plans to reprint the Spanish manual or amend the foreign language tests, so no additional costs will be incurred. Since we do not require the use of any language other than English, the Department sees no violation of Sections 1-1-696 or 1-1-697 by distributing manuals that are in inventory or offering these tests.

I appreciate your support of the Department of Motor Vehicles. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcia Adams".

Marcia Adams
Executive Director
South Carolina Department Motor Vehicles

Spanish Driver Manuals:

Year Printed: 2002

Translation Costs: \$7,000.00 (State appropriated funds)

Printing Costs: \$36,948 (Purchased using federal grant funds)

Printed Quantity: 40,000

Current Inventory: 10,350

Language Driving Tests:

Languages Offered: English, German, French, Spanish

Procured: Fiscal Year 2000; Purchased as part of DMV project to enhance computer systems (Project Phoenix)

Costs: The costs for the foreign languages were not itemized in total cost of new testing system. DMV estimates that costs were \$15,000 for translation services and deployment of these tests.