No. RT-11021/40/2014-MVL
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street,
New Delhi -110001.

Dated 29th October, 2016.

To

1) The Principal Secretaries(Transport)/The Secretaries (Transport)/The
Transport Commissioners of all the States/UT Administrations except Govt.
of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

2) The Secretary(Home/Transport), Government of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Sub: Driving licence for hearing impaired persons – reg.

Sir/Madam,

In view of the PIL191 of 2013 in the High Court of Judicature of Bombay
filed by Amit Ashok Tribhuvan V/s Regional Transprot Officer and Ors, a meeting
under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary(Transport) was held on 6th May, 2016 to
discuss the issue of grant of driving licences for hearing impaired. It was decided to
seek the views of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi on the
subject. The views of AIIMS was received on 3rd June, 2016 which were circulated to
all the State Government vide letter of even number dated 23rd June, 2016 for
comments. The same are reproduced hereunder :-

“2. Driving is primarily a visual function with little inputs from hearing. Many
developed countries give hearing impaired people the privilege of being able to
drive. If a person is rehabilitated with hearing amplification (hearing aid or cochlear
implant) and can hear reasonably with the same then there seems little reason to
deprive him or her of a driving license. For patients not fully rehabilitated some
countries do grant the privilege to drive. This is important with regard to
opportunities we wish to grant to the disabled. It is well recognized that the loss of
hearing does not pre-se impact the ability to drive. As an added precaution, should be
asked to display on the car a sign indicating the driver is hearing impaired. All such
applicants should take a stringent driving test under the actual road condition
circumstances as is the case for normal individuals.”

3. It is requested that the application for driving licences to the hearing impaired
applicants may be considered as per para-2 above while deciding the issue of any

Yours faithfully,

(Priyank Bharti)
Director (MVL)
Tel: 011- 23314316