Who is required to have an Instruction Permit?  
Anyone learning to drive an automobile, motorcycle or Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) must first obtain an Instruction Permit.

What is required for a permit?  
An applicant must pass the appropriate knowledge exam and a highway signs test. To apply for an automobile instruction permit, a person must:

- be at least 15 years and 6 months old
- provide proof of name, date of birth and legal presence, such as a certified birth certificate, a passport or naturalization papers and acceptable proof of identity (usually a document with name and signature or photo) when applying for the first permit
- if under 18 years old, an applicant must be enrolled in a certified driver education program
- have the signature of a parent, step-parent, or other adult sponsor, or file financial responsibility under certain conditions if under 18

To apply for an instruction permit to learn to operate a CMV, a person must be 18 years of age or older and hold a valid Class “D” (automobile/small truck) driver license.

Where are permits issued?  
DMV processes permits at DMV Customer Service Centers located throughout the state, which are then mailed to the customer.

What is the cost?  
The fee for a Class D instruction permit is $35, motorcycle permits are $32 and CDL permits are $30.

How long is the permit valid?  
The class D permit is good for 1 year. CDL and motorcycle permits are good for 6 months. Each renewal costs $35, $30, and $32 respectively. A minor must show proof of enrollment or completion of a certified driver education course to renew the permit.

Can it be renewed?  
Persons operating with a Class D permit must be accompanied by a person who has at least 2 years licensed driving experience, who presently holds a valid regular (non-probationary) license and who is one of the following: a qualified instructor age 19 or older or parent, guardian or spouse, age 19 or older, or a person age 21 or older.

Persons operating a CMV with an instruction permit must be accompanied by a licensed driver age 21 or older, with the appropriate class of license and endorsements.

For more information contact:  
Bureau of Driver Services  
Driver Eligibility Unit  
(608) 264-7049  
or any local DMV Customer Service Center