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**From:** Greg Bullough [greg@bullough.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 04, 2002 11:27 AM  
**To:** govt@eaa.org  
**CC:** aritchie@ptd.net  
**Subject:** NJ Pilots may have trouble getting photo IDs

New Jersey driver's licenses aren't photo ID's in many cases.  
Pilots from this state may have a real problem converting.

See this news story:

[http://wcbs880.com/siteSearch/watercooler\\_story\\_306150106.html](http://wcbs880.com/siteSearch/watercooler_story_306150106.html)

Greg Bullough

02 NOV -4 PM 3:26  
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## Want A Jersey License? Come Back Later

• Film Shortage Delays Photo Driver's Licenses



CBS

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Nov 2, 2002 2:54 pm US/Eastern

(AP) (HACKENSACK, N.J. ) A shortage of film used for photo driver's licenses has forced New Jersey's Division of Motor Vehicles to turn away applicants.

Film manufacturer Polaroid Corp. went bankrupt last year and sold its DMV contracts to Digimarc ID Systems.

Polaroid, which supplies the film to Digimarc, has had trouble estimating

supply needs because so few states still use the technology now considered **obsolete** in a digital age.

The DMV office in Morristown, where 225 licenses are processed on a typical day, opened Thursday without any film before receiving 600 frames by 10 a.m. In the two-hour interlm, license applicants were referred to the Randolph office, which had received film Wednesday night.

DMV staff in Englewood took applicants' names and phone numbers when the office ran out of film for a half-hour Thursday.

New Jersey is among only several states that continue to use the instant-photo technology invented shortly after World War 11.

"If we had taken the action that should have been taken 10 years ago to require digital driver's licenses, this would not have happened because we would not have been using obsolete equipment," DMV Director Diane Legreide told The Record of Bergen County for Saturday's edtlons.

New Jersey's DMV issues 12,500 photo licenses and ID cards dally. It's not the **only** state scrambling for film. In Oklahoma, 275 motor vehicles offices are often forced to borrow film from each other.

Agencies try to keep 60-day supplies on hand, but that's **not** always possible, said Lonnie Jarman, director of the Oklahoma Driver's License Service.

Oklahoma is now trying to hasten its conversion to a digital system, originally scheduled for July 2004.

Alaska and Rhode Island also use the old-fashioned license and id



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Alaska and Rhode Island also use the old-fashioned licenses and say they have no shortage. But officials in Alaska aren't confident that will always be the case.

New Jersey's motor vehicle agency, plagued by corruption, security lapses and a black market for licenses, is trying to revamp its system.

Lawmakers approved the change to digital photo licenses three years ago, but concerns about funding and security have stalled the changeover.

Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox wants to award a contract for the new licenses by March. But he has warned key changes, such as a new \$100 million computer system, must be in place before digital licenses can be issued.

Meanwhile, the state's DMV offices struggle to maintain film stocks.

Despite its bankruptcy, Polaroid has assured the state of a steady supply, but Digimarc has provided only 44 of 266 cartons of film it promised.

State officials say the 266 cartons will only carry the DMV until Nov. 12,

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