

## **International BiOptic Driving Conference.**

**Title: "Driving with Low Vision in Spain. Present situation and future trends".**

**Authors: M. Cejudo, A. Barañano.**

Address: Baja Visión, Angel Barañano.  
C/. Ponzano, nº 25, 28003  
Madrid, Spain.

### ABSTRACT

This presentation has, as a main goal, to explore the possibilities of changing the present situation existing in Spain, where low vision persons are not allowed to drive a car at any circumstances. At this purpose we concentrate on four subjects: legislation, potential user's awareness, actions to take, and professional's responsibility.

First. Here we make a review, examining the Spanish legislation concerning licensure to drive normal cars and farm tractors; emphasizing the limitations that this legislation imposes to low vision persons when trying to obtain that sort of licensure.

Second. We make a reflection about the awareness degree low vision persons have, and if they are in the position for claiming their right to obtain the driver's licensure. Also it must be seen if they assume that the security in managing the vehicle comes first; at that rate they could accede to this right safeguarding their interests and quality of life.

Third. Now we offer some suggestions for actions to take if we pretend to bring the potential users and the authorities to the consciousness of removing the present situation, and reach the suitable legislation in accordance with the expectations and capacities of low vision drivers.

Fourth. Finally, we consider that low vision professionals ought to reinforce their strategies of information to convince their clients about the possibilities they have if they want to maintain their activity as car drivers (there are a number of them that already have the official permission, even after they have lost an important part of their vision). In that way, patients must accept to take part in a rehabilitation process and the corresponding training sessions with the prescribed bioptic telescope.

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