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Russell, Ottawa and Ellsworth counties driver's license offices closed Tuesday morning for upgrades

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TOPEKA – The Russell, Ottawa and Ellsworth counties driver's license offices will begin using new technology Tuesday that will both simplify the process of getting driver's licenses and help ensure people receiving Kansas licenses are who they say they are.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles will be installing new equipment and software and training workers at the driver's license offices in the courthouses in Russell, Minneapolis and Ellsworth. The offices will reopen at 1 p.m.

During the upgrade, the offices will still be able to process vehicle tags.

The upgraded technology, which is already used at the department's driver's license office in the Docking State Office Building in Topeka, will scan and capture the documents people bring in as proof of their identity. While documents are already visually inspected at all driver's license offices when someone applies for a driver's license, the new technology will help verify the documents' authenticity.

“We are constantly searching for ways to make the process of getting a driver's license more convenient and secure for Kansans,” said Director of Vehicles Donna Shelite. “This upgrade is another step in the right direction.”

This year, the Revenue Department plans to have the new technology and software installed at all 111 county and state offices that issue driver's licenses.

The new technology will help make Kansas compliant with the federal Real ID Act, which requires states to adhere to tighter security measures for issuing state identification cards.