

FAST FACTS ABOUT FEDERAL DRIVER LICENSES and Identification Cards



What is the REAL ID Act?

Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will require your driver license or identification card to be REAL ID compliant if you wish to use it as identification to board a domestic flight or enter secure federal facilities that require identification. The California DMV now offers federal compliant REAL ID driver licenses or identification cards.

Do I Need a REAL ID Driver License or Identification Card?

Starting October 1, 2020, you will need to show a REAL ID driver license or identification card or other federally approved identification (passport, military ID) at TSA airport checkpoints nationwide or to visit secure federal facilities.


NOTE: Check the TSA website for a complete list of approved identification: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

You do not need a REAL ID card if...

- you know you will not be boarding a domestic flight or visiting a secure federal facility, such as a military base
- OR will use other approved documents as identification.

If you don't choose a REAL ID card, you will receive a federal non-compliant card with the phrase "Federal Limits Apply." Those under 18 are not required to have a REAL ID card to fly.

What Does a REAL ID Card Look Like?

REAL ID driver license and identification cards have a  in the top right corner.

Federal requirements go into effect 10/1/2020



If I Don't apply for a REAL ID, Which Card Will I Receive?

You will receive a federal non-compliant driver license or identification card with the phrase "Federal Limits Apply."



Who is Eligible for a REAL ID Driver License or Identification Card?

U.S. citizens and all legal residents of the United States can apply for a REAL ID driver license or identification card.



How to Get a REAL ID:

In order to get a REAL ID you must go to a DMV office and bring proof of:

- 1 Identity (One document)
- 2 Social Security number (One document)
- 3 California residency (Two different documents)

NOTE: Name change document(s) required if the name on your identity document is different than your current legal name.

PLAN AHEAD!

- An office visit is required
- Before visiting a field office, complete the online driver license/ID card application at eDlapp.dmv.ca.gov
- Bring applicable fees

Find more information about REAL ID, an interactive document checklist, and answers to FAQ at REALID.dmv.ca.gov

