

FAST FACTS ABOUT FEDERAL REAL ID Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards

What is the REAL ID Act?

Beginning May 2025, the federal government will require your driver's license or identification card to be REAL ID compliant if you wish to use it as identification to board domestic flights or enter secure federal facilities that require identification.

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

Starting May 2025, you will need to show a REAL ID driver's license or identification card, or other federally approved identification (passport, military ID, others) at TSA airport checkpoints nationwide or to visit secure federal facilities.

Check the TSA website for a complete list of acceptable identification:

<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

If you choose not to get a REAL ID, 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 to fly.

What Does a REAL ID Look Like?

California REAL ID driver's licenses and identification cards have a  in the top right corner.

Federal requirements go into effect May 2025



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

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



Who is Eligible for a REAL ID?

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



How to Get a REAL ID

You must visit a DMV office and provide:

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

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

PLAN AHEAD!

- Complete the online driver's license/ID card application and upload documents at REALID.dmv.ca.gov
- Bring uploaded documents with you to your DMV office visit.
- Bring applicable fees

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

