

***The following details are provided courtesy of Travel Leaders Network, of which D&D Travel Services, LLC is a member:***

**THE LATEST ON THE REAL-ID ACT FOR TRAVELERS:**

**1. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s “REAL ID Act” will ultimately require all state-issued drivers’ licenses to include “machine-readable technology” or chips to mitigate the number of air and cruise passengers using counterfeit forms of identification to pass through security.**

**2. The final phase of the REAL ID Act will be implemented beginning January 22, 2018. More than 20 states have been granted a grace period until then, while their compliancy is under review.**

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**1. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s “REAL ID Act” will ultimately require all state-issued drivers’ licenses to include “machine-readable technology” or chips to mitigate the number of air and cruise passengers using counterfeit forms of identification to pass through security.**

□ According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), “REAL ID is a coordinated effort by the states and the Federal Government to improve the reliability and accuracy of state-issued identification documents, which should inhibit terrorists’ ability to evade detection by using fraudulent identification. REAL ID implements a 9/11 Commission recommendation urging the federal government to “set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses.”

□ **The REAL ID Act:**

○ “Establishes minimum standards for the production and issuance of state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards and authorizes grants to assist states in implementing the requirements.”

○ “Prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for official uses driver’s licenses and identity cards from states unless the Department of Homeland Security determines that the state meets the standards. Official uses are defined as accessing Federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants, and boarding federally-regulated commercial aircraft.”

□ “REAL ID is not a national identification card. States and territories will continue to issue driver’s licenses and identification cards, and there is no Federal database of driver information. Each jurisdiction will issue its own unique license and maintain its own records.”

□ The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which is part of DHS, requires adult passengers 18 and over to show valid identification at the airport checkpoint in order to travel. (TSA does not require children under 18 to provide identification when traveling with a companion within the United States.) ***These forms of identification include:***

- Driver's license or other state photo identity cards issued by Department of Motor Vehicles (or equivalent)
- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. military ID (active duty or retired military and their dependents, and DoD civilians)
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- DHS-designated enhanced driver's license
- Airline or airport-issued ID (if issued under a TSA-approved security plan)
- Federally recognized, tribal-issued photo ID
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation worker identification credential

□ **REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses or state IDs differ from a standard driver's license or state ID.**

○ **A REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card will have a star in a gold circle printed on it – or the American flag in the case of an enhanced license or ID card.** Standard licenses and state IDs (which do not meet the federal REAL ID requirements) will have **“Not for Federal Identification” printed on them.**

- Travelers should check with their state's Secretary of State about the status of that state's compliancy.

**2. The final phase of the REAL ID Act will be implemented beginning January 22, 2018, More than 20 states have been granted a grace period until then, while their compliancy is under review.**

□ On January 8, 2016, the DHS announced the final phase of implementation of the REAL ID Act will take place on January 22, 2018. **Full enforcement will begin on October 1, 2020.**

○ More than 20 states were granted extensions until October 10, 2017. By time the extensions expired on October 10, 2017, most states that were still not compliant were granted an **additional extension until October 10, 2018.** These extensions also applied to non-compliant territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For a list of states who have received extensions, are compliant or are under review, see the Department of Homeland Security Real ID site: **<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>**.

▪ “Extensions are renewable at the discretion of the Secretary [of Homeland Security] provided there is adequate justification for continued noncompliance. Renewal is not automatic and the state should provide DHS with information about their progress in implementing any outstanding standards.”

□ **The states that were fully compliant, as of October 10, 2017:**

Alabama	Hawaii	Ohio
Arizona	Indiana	South Dakota
Arkansas	Iowa	Tennessee
Colorado	Kansas	Texas
<b>Connecticut</b>	Maryland	Utah
Delaware	Mississippi	Vermont
District of Columbia	Nebraska	West Virginia
Florida	Nevada	Wisconsin
Georgia	New Mexico	Wyoming
	North Carolina	

Many states offer **Enhanced Driver's Licenses (EDL)**, which are designated as "acceptable" border-crossing documents by DHS. Meaning they are fully compliant with the REAL ID Act.

○ **As of December 22, 2017**, 27 states and the District of Columbia are fully compliant with the REAL ID Act. Federal agencies can accept driver's licenses and identification cards from these states.

▪ **Some states are not yet compliant and are under review for an extension.** Passengers with driver's licenses issued by a state that is compliant with REAL ID (or a state that has been issued an extension) will still be able to use their driver's licenses or identification cards.

▪ According to DHS, **Louisiana, Michigan and New York** are still under review for an extension for travel after January 22, 2018. which may conflict with local Secretary of State information. Please check with your state's motor vehicle department for the most current information. The DHS website is: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id> ○ **Starting January 22, 2018**, passengers with a driver's license issued by a state that is still not compliant with the REAL ID Act **and** has not been granted an extension will need to show an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel to board their flight. **Starting October 1, 2020, every air traveler will need a REAL ID-compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel.**

□ For all states that are technically non-compliant with or without an extension, it is important to remember:

○ Residents of those states are still currently free to travel with their current identification.

○ Residents of a non-compliant state who have an EDL or passport do not have to worry about the final phase of the REAL ID Act other than to use their EDL, passport or other acceptable form of identification for all airline travel.

○ For travelers interested in obtaining a passport, the current processing time is approximately 6-8 weeks from the time of application. Due to the expiration of many passports, this time may increase.

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