

DOL REAL ID FAQ

August 8th, 2023

What is REAL ID?

REAL ID is a federal law, not an actual piece of ID. This law increases safety and security measures and ensures identification. Learn more about the REAL ID Act and what pieces of identification meet the requirements.

Why do I need a REAL ID-compliant document?

The REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver licenses and ID cards. The federal act will require anyone traveling by airplane or visiting certain federal facilities to use a REAL ID-compliant document starting May 7, 2025. Even if you are not traveling by airplane, you should still get your REAL ID-compliant documents to secure your identification and in case of immediate travel needs.

What do I need to comply with REAL ID?

These identification options meet REAL ID standards and can be used to board domestic flights:

- Enhanced Driver License (EDL)
- Enhanced Identification Card (EID)
- U.S. Military ID
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Passport Card
- Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- Federally recognized tribal-issued photo ID
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- Foreign Passport

See the full list of [documents accepted for air travel](#).

Will I still be able to obtain a standard driver license and ID card?

Yes, we'll continue to offer standard driver licenses and ID cards that can be used by Washington residents to drive or as identification. A standard driver license and ID card do not indicate a person's residency or legal status. Starting May 7, 2025, they will no longer be accepted as valid forms of ID for boarding domestic flights.

Will I be able to travel by air domestically with my standard driver license?

No, once the REAL ID Act takes effect you will not be able to board domestic flights with your standard driver license anymore unless it is an Enhanced Driver's License or another REAL ID-compliant document.

Will I be able to travel by land with my standard driver license?

Yes, other avenues of travel, such as driving across state lines or taking a train, do not require a REAL ID-compliant ID. Standard driver licenses and ID cards will work.

What is the difference between an Enhanced Driver License (EDL) and Enhanced Identification Card (EID)?

An EDL or EID is a form of identification with enhanced security features that shows proof of identity and proof of citizenship. The enhanced features comply with the REAL ID Act. An EDL/EID meets federal requirements under REAL ID and is an approved alternative to a passport or passport card for re-entry into the U.S. at land and sea borders between the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

Who can get an EDL or EID?

You must be a U.S. citizen and provide a Social Security number, proof of citizenship, proof of identity, and proof of Washington State residency. After you've collected your documents, make an appointment to apply at a driver licensing office near you.

Do I have to get an EDL or EID?

If you don't plan to fly domestically, or already have acceptable identity documents, you may not need an EDL or EID. The standard license will continue to permit you to drive and your standard ID will continue to serve as a valid form of identification within the state. However, it is best to stay prepared in the instance that there are unexpected travel needs.

How do I know if my driver license or ID card does not comply with REAL ID? We started marking standard driver licenses and ID cards with "Federal limits Apply" in July 2018 on the top right corner. Check yours to see if it is there.

[Learn more about REAL ID.](#)

Need additional help? Here's how to contact us.

Phone: [360-902-3900](tel:360-902-3900)

(TTY: Call [711](tel:711))