



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

REAL ID

The REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver's licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act's minimum standards. The purposes covered by the Act are: accessing Federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants, and, boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

REAL ID



For the Public



Frequently Asked Questions

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REAL ID Documentation

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For States



State Compliance

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State Extensions

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State Implementation

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Federal Enforcement



Information for Federal

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REAL ID Documentation

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Current Status of States / Territories

Please select a state/territory for current status.

DHS is committed to enforcing the REAL ID Act in accordance with the phased enforcement schedule and regulatory timeframes and is not inclined to grant additional extensions to any states that are not both committed to achieving full compliance and making substantial and documented progress in satisfying any unmet requirements. It has been 12 years since the REAL ID Act was passed and half of all the states have already met the REAL ID minimum standards. It is time that the remaining jurisdictions turn their commitments to secure identification into action.

Description and Schedule of Enforcement Phases (#)

The following enforcement measures are cumulative, with measures in each phase remaining in effect through successive phases. Each phase will begin with a 3-month period where agencies will provide notice to individuals attempting to use driver's licenses or identification cards from noncompliant states but still allow access. After this period is over, agencies will no longer accept such identification for entry to Federal facilities, and individuals will need to follow the agency's alternate procedures (to be made available by the agency).

- **Phase 1: Restricted areas** (i.e., areas accessible by agency personnel, contractors, and their guests) for DHS's Nebraska Avenue Complex (NAC) headquarters.
- **Phase 2: Restricted areas** for all Federal facilities and nuclear power plants.
- **Phase 3: Semi-restricted areas** (i.e., areas available to the general public but subject to ID-based access control) for most Federal facilities (subject to limitations described in the next section). Access to Federal facilities will continue to be allowed for purposes of applying for or receiving Federal benefits.
- **Phase 4: Boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.**

For more information on Facility Security Level, please see the [Interagency Security Committee standard, Section Four \(/publication/isc-risk-management-process-aug-2013\)](#).

Limitations (#)

Access for activities directly relating to safety and health or life preserving services, to law enforcement, and to constitutionally protected activities, including legal and investigative proceedings will not be affected. Existing agency policies will still apply.

The Act does not require individuals to present identification where it is not currently required to access a Federal facility (such as to enter the public areas of the Smithsonian) nor does it prohibit an agency from accepting other forms of identity documents other than documents from non-compliant states (such as a U.S. passport or passport card).

The Act's prohibitions do not affect other uses of driver's licenses or identification cards – including licenses and cards from noncompliant states – unrelated to official purposes as defined in the Act. For example, the Act does not apply to voting, registering to vote, or for applying for or receiving Federal benefits.

For more information, please contact the REAL ID Program Office at REALID@dhs.gov (<mailto:REALID@dhs.gov>).

Additional Information (#)

- [REAL ID Documentation \(/secure-drivers-license-documentation\)](#)
- [REAL ID Frequently Asked Questions \(/real-id-frequently-asked-questions\)](#)

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