FACTSHEET

REAL ID

It's the law.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the federal government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies, like TSA, from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards.

Check for the star.

Beginning **October 1, 2021**, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of ID to fly within the United States. REAL ID-compliant cards are generally marked with a star located in the upper portion of the card. If you're not sure, contact your state driver's license agency on how to obtain a REAL ID-compliant card.

Generally, a star indicates it's a REAL ID

Gold star

Black star

Star cutout in gold circle

Star cutout in black circle

Star cutout in gold grizzly bear

Examples

Homeland Security

Learn about flying with a REAL ID at **tsa.gov/real-id**

When do I need to get a REAL ID?

Beginning **October 1, 2021**, you will need have a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of ID, such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID, to fly within the U.S.

How do I get a REAL ID?

Check with your state driver's license agency. You will need to go in person to present documentation to verify who you are and where you live in order to get your REAL ID.

IDs that fly.

Acceptable forms of ID for air travel include:

- REAL ID driver's license or other REAL ID-compliant state photo identity card issued by Department of Motor Vehicles (or equivalent)
- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler card (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- DHS-designated enhanced driver's license
- 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 (TWIC®)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential

Get the REAL ID toolkit.

Download and print your REAL ID information materials at **tsa.gov/real-id**

Contact Us

Email

You can request information at **TSA-ContactCenter@tsa.dhs.gov**

Call

1-866-289-9673
Federal Relay 711
Automated information is available anytime in several languages. Representatives are available 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET weekdays; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekends/holidays.

@AskTSA

#Check4TheStar
Questions? Comments? Contact us on Twitter or Facebook Messenger for live assistance from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET weekdays; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends/holidays.

Homeland Security

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