

WHAT PASSENGERS NEED TO KNOW **REAL ID IMPLEMENTATION**

MAY 2025

Maintaining the safety and security of the traveling public is the top priority for airports. Airports that are in full compliance with federal requirements continue to work closely with federal agencies, law enforcement, and airline partners to safeguard travelers.

Airports and their industry partners are working to ensure TSA's enforcement of REAL ID standards proceeds with minimal disruption to passengers.

What is the REAL ID Act?

The REAL ID Act was passed by the United States Congress in 2005. The legislation was created based on recommendations from the 9/11 Commission. REAL ID establishes consistent, government-wide identity verification standards designed to prevent fraud and strengthen national security.

How do I know if my license or identification card is REAL ID-compliant?

REAL ID-compliant cards will have a star marking on the upper top portion of the card. If the card does not have a star marking, it is not REAL ID-compliant and won't be accepted as proof of identity to board commercial aircraft. Examples of REAL IDs can be found on the [Department of Homeland Security's website](#).



What other forms of ID are acceptable if I don't have REAL ID?

Some options include:

- U.S. passport or passport card
- Enhanced Driver's Licenses and Enhanced Identification cards (EDL/EID)
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Photo ID issued by a federally recognized Tribal

Nation/Indian Tribe, including Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs)

- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card

The complete list of alternative forms of compliant identification can be found [here](#).

REAL ID Impacts on Passengers

TSA will fully enforce REAL ID on May 7, 2025. Passengers should arrive at the airport and be prepared to present REAL ID-compliant identification when entering TSA security checkpoints.

Passengers may have to obtain new identification for domestic air travel.

TSA may only accept REAL ID compliant state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards for purposes of accessing TSA airport security checkpoints. In addition, TSA will accept an [alternative form of acceptable identification](#).

Passengers who do not present REAL ID compliant document or an alternate form of acceptable identification should be prepared to face additional screening at TSA security checkpoints.

TSA does not require children under the age of 18 to provide identification when traveling in the U.S.

Additional Resources

- [REAL ID Homepage](#)
- [About REAL ID](#)
- [REAL ID FAQs](#)
- [Alternative Identification](#)