

REAL ID: GET AHEAD OF OCTOBER 1, 2021



The U.S. travel industry generates **\$2.6 trillion** in economic output, supports **15.8 million American jobs** and generates a **\$59 billion trade surplus** for the United States. **When travel thrives, so does America.**

On **October 1, 2021**, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will implement the last phase of REAL ID enforcement, which **will require Americans to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, enhanced driver's license or another acceptable form of ID to go through airport security and board a flight within the U.S.**

HISTORY OF REAL ID ACT IMPLEMENTATION



2005

Congress passed the REAL ID Act to set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses.



2013

DHS announced a phased enforcement plan for the REAL ID Act.



2018

With 37 states compliant, DHS granted a temporary extension to the 19 remaining jurisdictions.



2019

Nearly all U.S. states and territories are now issuing REAL IDs, and the remainder will continue to do so before October 1, 2021, but many Americans still do not have a REAL ID or understand why they need one. Visit dhs.gov/real-id for the current status of states and territories.



2020

In March 2020, the Department of Homeland Security announced a one-year REAL ID enforcement extension.

OCT. 2021

Beginning October 1, 2021, every American adult traveling by air will need a **REAL ID-compliant driver's license** or **another acceptable form of ID** to fly within the U.S.



What makes a REAL ID real? REAL ID-compliant cards are generally marked with a **STAR** in the upper corner of the card. The style of the star will vary depending on the state, and it's best to check with your state's DMV directly to determine if your license is considered a REAL ID.



Gold Star



Star cutout in gold circle



Black Star



Star cutout in black circle



Washington State issues enhanced driver's license marked with a flag.

The above represents the majority of star variations marked on REAL ID licenses. To determine how to identify your state's REAL ID license, contact your state DMV.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES*

In total, an estimated 153 million Americans (65% of all driver's license holders) say their driver's license is not a REAL ID or they may be confused.

- 36% say they are certain their license is not a REAL ID
- 21% say they are unsure if their license is a REAL ID
- 8% believe their license is a REAL ID but did not correctly identify the star

An estimated **83 million American adults (34%)** say they do not have any form of identification that will be accepted starting October 1, 2021

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID AT SECURITY STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2021

- ★ U.S. passport or passport card
- ★ U.S. military ID
- ★ Enhanced driver's license (Offered in MI, MN, NY, VT, and WA. Generally marked with a U.S. flag)
- ★ DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- ★ REAL ID-compliant driver's license
- ★ For more acceptable forms of ID, visit tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification

* Longwoods Survey Measuring Public's Understanding of REAL ID Identifications and October 1, 2020 Enforcement Deadline for Commercial Air Travel, Commissioned by U.S. Travel Association, March 24, 2020. Original survey fielded July 2019. Population estimates by U.S. Travel Association.

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THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY IS HERE TO HELP

U.S. Travel Association will continue working with its membership, other industry stakeholders and government partners on an education campaign and policy recommendations to ensure travelers are aware and prepared for the October 1, 2021 deadline.

Education Campaign Objectives:

- Make certain Americans know what a REAL ID is and encourage them to obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or other form of identification
- Improve public awareness of the October 1, 2021, deadline for air travel

39% of Americans are unaware that traveling by air will soon require a REAL ID compliant document at TSA checkpoints

- **61% of Americans** are aware that traveling by air will soon require a REAL ID compliant document at TSA checkpoints

The education campaign and coordination with the industry will also include a earned media strategy and delivery of resources timed with key travel periods leading up to the 2021 deadline. New resources on how to communicate about REAL ID to your audiences will be available on our toolkit: ustravel.org/REALIDtoolkit



U.S. TRAVEL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Modernize the REAL ID statute:** Amend the REAL ID Act to allow for mobile and web-based REAL ID applications and to permit TSA to accept mobile or digital REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses, which will reduce DMV backlogs and increase checkpoint efficiency.
- 2. Designate registered traveler enrollment as an acceptable alternative:** Utilize the existing security and identification features of trusted traveler programs, including TSA Precheck, to reduce the need for a REAL ID Act-compliant driver's license at airport checkpoints.
- 3. Transition TSA checkpoints to automated identity verification:** Accelerate the implementation of automated identity verification technology for passport holders and trusted travelers, which will strengthen security, improve checkpoint efficiency, and decrease the number of travelers that arrive at TSA checkpoints without accepted identifications.
- 4. Develop alternative screening procedures for travelers without acceptable identifications:** TSA should work with the private sector to develop procedures for clearing travelers that do not have a REAL ID or acceptable alternative after October 1, 2020. Turning away large numbers of travelers at the checkpoint is simply unacceptable.

Additional Resources:

Department of Homeland Security: dhs.gov/real-id
Transportation Security Administration: dhs.gov/real-id