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REAL ID INFORMATION

What is the REAL ID?

Department of Homeland Security put in place the REAL ID Act in 2005 as a result of 9/11. This act required states to have specific standards in sources of identification, like a driver's license, in order to use it for domestic travel.

What's the REAL ID change?

7 states (Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Washington) are either noncompliant or are in "grace periods" working towards the required standards so that your driver's license can be used for domestic travel. This means that your current driver's license will **not** be sufficient for domestic air travel in 2018.

So what does this mean?

If your license is registered in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Washington, and you use your license for domestic air travel, you will need to use one of the following TSA approved forms of identification to fly domestically...

- New upgraded compliant license
- [Passport](#)
- [Passport Card](#)
- [Global Entry Card](#)

When will my current license no longer be valid for domestic travel?

January 2018: Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Washington

What should I do?

If you already have a passport, passport card, new upgraded compliant license, or Global Entry Card, use that for domestic travel in 2018. If you do not have one of these forms of identification, you will need to get one. Obtaining a passport typically takes 4-6 weeks. You may also apply for a passport card, which is a more cost-effective option if you do not travel internationally. Passport cards are valid for domestic travel as well as travel to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. They are not valid for travel to any other countries besides these. Global Entry will also be a TSA approved form of identification. We do not yet have a timeline or know the cost on when you can upgrade to a compliant license. The D.O.T. has to actually purchase and install the equipment needed to comply with the Real ID Act before you can upgrade to the new compliant license. In most states, the expected availability of this license upgrade equipment is not until AFTER January of 2018, which pretty much requires you to get a passport, passport card, or Global Entry card, for domestic air travel.

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