

Planning to fly?

**Be sure to
update your
driver's license.**



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Questions & Answers about Enhanced Driver's Licenses and REAL ID

You will need a passport or EDL to fly domestically

Why Upgrade?

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, New York state driver's licenses are among those in four states that do not meet federal standards for the REAL ID Act – set to go into effect in 2016.

What Is Happening?

Next year, up to 10 million New Yorkers could be prevented from taking domestic airline flights because their licenses don't comply with the federal REAL ID Act.

Come October of 2016, standard IDs no longer will be considered valid forms of identification, and travelers will not be able to use standard IDs to board planes. Instead, they must carry enhanced driver's licenses or passports.

What Do I Do?

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has granted New York State a one-year extension to comply with a federal law to issue new, secure driver's licenses that will be required for airline travel. Following the extension, your license may not satisfy security requirements set by the Department of Homeland Security.

The DMV says it will continue to offer state residents the option of an enhanced driver's license, which costs about \$30 more than a standard license. The enhanced licenses are honored for REAL ID purposes nationwide, including U.S. travelers who are allowed to enter Canada or Mexico without a passport.

What is REAL ID?

The REAL ID Act of 2005 is a coordinated effort by the states and the federal government to improve the reliability and accuracy of state-issued identification documents, which should inhibit terrorists' ability to evade detection by using fraudulent identification.

What does the REAL ID Act require?

REAL ID prohibits federal agencies from accepting for official uses driver's licenses and identity cards from states unless the Department of Homeland Security determines that the state meets the standards. Official uses are defined as accessing federal facilities, entering nuclear power plants, and boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft.

Is REAL ID a national identification card?

No. REAL ID is not a national identification card. States and territories will continue to issue driver's licenses and identification cards, and there is no federal database of driver information. Each jurisdiction will issue its own unique license and maintain its own records.

What does my Enhanced Driver's License allow?

- Border crossing to Canada & Mexico
- Accessing a federal facility
- Flying domestically
- Boarding a commercial aircraft

May federal agencies accept my Enhanced Driver's License?

Yes. State Enhanced Driver's Licenses (EDLs), like those offered in New York State, are designated as acceptable for border crossing and are acceptable for official federal purposes such as accessing a federal facility or boarding a commercial aircraft.

*Data and Information
Provided by the
Department of
Homeland Security*

*Questions, Comments, or
Concerns Please Feel Free
to*

*Visit the Department
of Homeland Security
website at: www.dhs.gov*

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Local DMV Branch by
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dmv.ny.gov/offices

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