

REAL ID

What is REAL ID?

In 2005 the United States Congress passed the REAL ID Act based on a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission to establish “standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses.”

Is Montana going to issue REAL ID compliant credentials?

Yes. In 2017 the Montana Legislature passed SB 366 authorized Montana to issue REAL ID compliant credentials.

When will Montana begin to issue REAL ID compliant credentials?

If Montana continues to receive extensions from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), then beginning in January of 2019, Montana will begin issuing REAL ID compliant credentials. If extensions are denied, then Montana will begin issuing REAL ID compliant credentials as soon as possible.

When will I need a REAL ID compliant identification to travel domestically by air?

If Montana does not receive another extension, starting January 8, 2019, travelers with a Montana driver license or identification card must have an alternative form of acceptable identification for domestic air travel to board their flight.

Starting October 1, 2020, every air traveler will need a REAL ID compliant license, or another acceptable form of identification, for domestic air travel.

When will I need a REAL ID compliant identification to access federal facilities?

If Montana does not receive another extension from Department of Homeland Security (DHS), starting January 8, 2019, a person with a Montana driver license or identification card who is visiting a military base or almost all federal facilities will be required to have an alternative form of acceptable identification to access the federal facility.

Does Montana have an extension on the full implementation of the REAL ID Act?

Yes. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted Montana a one-year extension for REAL ID implementation until October 10th, 2018. During this time, Montana credentials are still accepted as identification for domestic, commercial flights and as identification to access federal facilities. As long as Montana continues to demonstrate a commitment “to achieving full compliance and making substantial *and* documented progress” of the REAL ID Act, we believe we will continue to receive extensions until we are capable of issuing REAL ID compliant credentials.

When will the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) begin enforcement of the REAL ID Act for Montana?

DHS will not give any extension beyond October 1, 2020. On that date, all individuals who want to access certain federal facilities or travel by air in the United States, must have either a REAL ID compliant credential or an acceptable alternative form of identification.

DHS indicated that additional extensions will only be granted if Montana continues to demonstrate a commitment “to achieving full compliance and making substantial and documented progress” of the REAL ID Act.

Montana will continue to request extensions. For the current enforcement status and schedule, please visit the [DHS website](#).

What are the accepted alternative forms of identification for air travel?

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has many types of identification that are acceptable instead of a REAL ID compliant driver license or state issued identification card. You may find a list of these alternative forms of identification at the [TSA website](#).

You may contact your airline for questions regarding specific ID requirements for travelers.

Are there federal facilities that REAL ID does not apply to?

There are certain federal facilities that do not require a person to present identification. You may find the types of federal facilities at the [DHS website](#) under “Limitations.”

Do I have to get a REAL ID compliant credential?

No. MVD offers compliant and non-compliant credentials. The decision to get a REAL ID compliant credential is yours.

Is there an additional fee to get a REAL ID compliant credential?

Yes. The fee varies depending on when your credential expires.

- \$25.00 if applying for a REAL ID compliant credential at your regular renewal period
- \$50.00 if applying for a REAL ID compliant credential outside of a regular renewal period

Why is there an additional fee to get a REAL ID compliant credential?

REAL ID requires additional equipment, security steps to our processes, employees, and system upgrades to meet federal requirements. The additional fees fund these requirements. The fees collected may only be used to fund the costs associated with providing REAL ID compliant credentials.

How many REAL ID compliant credentials will the State issue to me?

Only one.

Will MVD issue me a REAL ID compliant credential and a non-compliant credential?

Yes. You can hold only one REAL ID compliant credential, either a driver license or an identification card. The chart shows the options for holding a REAL ID compliant credential and a non-compliant credential(s). If you decide to have a REAL ID compliant credential, you may select one of the following options:

Driver License		Identification Card	
REAL ID Compliant	Non-compliant	REAL ID Compliant	Non-compliant
One	None	None	As many as you pay for
None	One	One	None

How can you tell if a credential is REAL ID compliant or not?

A REAL ID compliant credential will have a gold star on the front upper right corner. A non-compliant credential will have words stating “Not for Federal Identification Purposes.”

Are temporary credentials REAL ID compliant?

No. Temporary credentials are made on special paper, but do not have the security features of a regular plastic credential and are not REAL ID compliant. A learner permit, commercial learner permit, restricted driver license, or temporary credential while you wait for your plastic credential are not REAL ID compliant.

Once REAL ID is fully implemented, you cannot use a temporary credential to fly domestically or to access most federal facilities.

Are Montana driver licenses and identification cards secure?

Yes. Montana produces secure credentials that deter fraud and protect the identities of its citizens.

What are the requirements for getting a REAL ID compliant credential?

When Montana is closer to issuing a REAL ID compliant credential, the Motor Vehicle website will be updated with the acceptable documents. The documents are similar to what MVD already requires to be issued a new credential with a few differences.

An individual applying for a REAL ID compliant credential must bring:

- Documents to prove their identity.
- Documents to prove authorized presence.
- Documents to prove Montana residency.

What does MVD do with the documents I submit for a REAL ID compliant credential?

MVD will scan the documents. These documents will be securely stored along with all your information that MVD currently maintains on your driving record.

What is an Enhanced Driver License?

State-issued enhanced driver licenses (EDLs) provide proof of identity and U.S. citizenship, and are issued in a secure process providing for an alternative for entering the

United States from Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean, through a land or sea port of entry. EDLs comply with the travel rules under the **Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)**. An EDL is a chipped credential that can access an individual's biographic and biometric data.

Will Montana be issuing enhanced driver licenses?

No. The Montana Legislature has not authorized the Motor Vehicle Division to issue enhanced driver licenses. The requirements to issue an EDL are more stringent than for issuing a REAL ID compliant credential.

REAL ID vs Enhanced Driver Licenses

EDL	REAL ID
Only for U.S. Citizens	For U.S. citizens and non-citizens with lawful presence.
Acceptable for certain land and sea crossborder travel in North America	Not acceptable for crossborder travel
Acceptable for accessing Federal facilities, entering nuclear power plant, and boarding federally-regulated aircraft (Same)	Acceptable for accessing Federal facilities, entering nuclear power plant, and boarding federally-regulated aircraft (Same)
Requires facilitative technology (RFID chip)	No facilitative technology requirement
Requires exchange of personal information with Federal Government (CBP)	No exchange of personal information with Federal Government.
Issuing employees must be U.S. Citizens and go through background checks	Issuing employees must go through background checks
No verification requirement for U.S. Passports, Certificates of Naturalization or Citizenship, and DL/IDs	Verification requirements for all source documents (except address)
ICAO 9303 Machine Readable Zone (passport standard)	PDF-417 Machine Readable Zone (AAMVA data standard)



SOURCE: <https://dojmt.gov/driving/mvd-faqs/#FAQREALID1>