

Getting Real with the REAL ID

Updated January 29, 2026



What is REAL ID?




REAL ID prohibits federal agencies from accepting any photo IDs that do not meet new standards.

Effective May 7th, 2025, all U.S. travelers aged 18+ need REAL ID-compliant identification to board a domestic flight.

If travelers cannot produce valid REAL ID-compliant identification, they will need to complete the [TSA ConfirmID process](#) and pay a \$45 fee, or be unable to board their domestic flight.

★ REAL ID

What's the difference?

	 Standard ID	 REAL ID	 Passport
U.S. domestic air travel		✓	✓
International air travel			✓
Driving	✓	✓	
Age-restricted purchases	✓	✓	✓
Voting	✓	✓	✓
Accessing certain federal facilities		✓	✓

How do you know if you have a REAL ID? *Just look for the star!* → ★ ★★ ★★ ★★ ★★