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REAL ID

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced it was extending the deadline by roughly two years for air passengers to use a REAL ID when traveling.

The agency announced on Monday it will begin enforcing the more stringent identification requirement on May 7, 2025, after previously setting a deadline of May 3, 2023. The announcement marks DHS's third pandemic-related extension.

Travelers will need Real ID-compliant identification cards to board domestic flights starting May 7, 2025.

The Real ID Act was passed by Congress in 2005 to increase security measures concerning state-issued personal identification cards, that are often used to access airports, military bases, and nuclear installations.

Do you know if you have a REAL ID or Not?

- Travelers should check to see whether there is a star in the upper portion of their card
- Typically, it is a gold or black star, a star cutout in a gold or black circle.

Beginning May 2025, only Real ID-compliant documentation will be accepted for boarding commercial flights. Includes: domestic flights, entering federal buildings and, military bases.

To receive a Real ID-compliant license, the Department of Homeland Security requires people to provide documents with the following information:

 One document (with full name) proving identity and date of birth (birth certificate or valid passport)

- One document (with full name and full Social Security number) confirming Social Security number
- Two documents (with current physical address) proving State residency
- For non-U.S. citizens, one document (with full name) proving legal presence/lawful status
- If applicable, one or more documents verifying any name change

Licenses are processed by each state; some states may require more information

For more information - https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs

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