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TSA to charge \$45 Fee for Non-REAL ID travelers starting Feb. 1, 2026

TravelMarket Report - December 1, 2025

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on Monday that they would begin charging adults aged 18-years and above traveling with a noncompliant ID (a non-REAL ID driver's license, for example), \$45 to be verified prior to travel.

Verification Process:

Travelers who require verification because they do not have a REAL ID or another acceptable form of ID, such as a passport, must have the verification receipt when they get in line at security checkpoints. The TSA is highly encouraging noncompliant travelers to complete verification and pay the fee online before arriving at the airport. TSA officers will check for the receipt prior to security screening.

If a traveler arrives without a receipt, they will be directed to leave the line and complete the verification process. Airports will have signage with QR codes that bring travelers to the verification page. The process relies on a passport lookup option and knowledge-based verification questions (KBA) to confirm identity and takes between 10 and 15 minutes, but may take up to 30 minutes in some cases.

Travelers who choose not to use the option or whose identity cannot be confirmed will be denied access beyond the security checkpoints. Currently, those without a REAL ID are still allowed to fly, but have to undergo more extensive screening at checkpoints.

A portal allowing travelers to be verified will be available by mid-December or earlier. Once travelers have the receipt, they will be processed through the security checkpoint.

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