



REAL ID FAQs

Definitions

Compliant – A compliant identification is one that meets the federal standards set forth in the REAL ID Act of 2005. This includes, but is not limited to, an unexpired US Passport/Passport Card, valid military ID, driver's license from a REAL ID-compliant state, and other federally approved identifications.

Non-Compliant – A non-compliant identification is one that **does not** meet the federal standards set forth in the REAL ID Act of 2005. This includes a non-compliant South Carolina driver's license or identification card. Non-compliant SC driver's licenses will say "Not For Federal Identification."

Federal Facility – A federal facility includes, but is not limited to, buildings like the Strom Thurmond Federal Building in Columbia, the VC Summer Nuclear Station in Jenkinsville, Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, and the United States Capitol in Washington, DC. A complete list of federal buildings in South Carolina can be found at www.gsa.gov.

1. What is the Real ID Act?

The United States Congress passed the REAL ID Act of 2005 as a result of the 9/11 Commission. The Commission recommended the Federal Government set standards for driver's licenses and other types of government-issued identification cards across the country.

2. Am I required to obtain a REAL ID driver's license or ID card?

No. South Carolina is offering a non-compliant and a compliant REAL ID option. If you will be boarding a plane or accessing a federal building or military base, you may want to consider getting a REAL ID-compliant SC beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card. If you have a valid US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, or another federally approved identification, you may use this as your form of identification, but you must have it with you to board a plane or access a federal building or military base on **October 1, 2020** and after.

If you feel you will **not be** boarding a plane or accessing a federal building or military base, you do not need a REAL ID.

3. Why do I need a REAL ID?

If you will be boarding a commercial flight or visiting a secure federal facility, you may want to consider getting a REAL ID-compliant beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card. You **must** have some type of a federally approved identification (whether this is a REAL ID-compliant South Carolina beginner's

permit, license, or ID, US Passport/Passport Card, or military ID, etc.) to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal building on and after **October 1, 2020**.

If you have a valid, unexpired US Passport, US Passport Card, or another federally approved identification, you may use this as your form of identification instead of your SC beginner's permit, license, or ID, but you **must** have this identification source with you to access federally secured facilities on and after **October 1, 2020**.

If you have a non-compliant license or ID, you can still do **all** of the following:

- Drive
- Vote
- Received federal benefits for which you're entitled (Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration)
- Visit a non-secure federal building (i.e. a post office)
- Participate in law enforcement proceedings (serve on a federal jury, testify in federal court)
- Receiving life-saving services/access a hospital

4. When can I get a REAL ID-compliant card?

REAL ID-compliant cards will be available to the public **in late 2017 or early 2018**. The SCDMV will release additional information when an exact date is known. Once they're available, you may get a REAL ID-compliant South Carolina driver's license or identification card at any time, as long as you meet the documentation requirements.

5. Which documents are needed in order to apply for a REAL ID?

The SCDMV **must have** your proof of identity/date of birth/US citizenship, proof of social security number, **two** proofs of current South Carolina address, and documents supporting any legal name change(s) (if applicable) on file with the SCDMV if you're interested in getting a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card.

Examples of some of the most common examples of required documents are the following:

- Birth certificate or unexpired US Passport/Passport Card
- Social security card
- No more than 90-day-old water bill **and** a bank statement
*These documents **cannot** be from the same category and **must** have your name and your **same current** SC address.*
- Marriage license, divorce decree, or court order to demonstrate any name change.

You will find a **complete list** of the documents the SCDMV will accept on the United States Citizens' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-93). You will find this form at www.scdmvonline.com.

If you received your **first** SC beginner's permit, license, or ID during or after **November 2010**, the SCDMV **should** have your documents on file. If you think you may fall into this category, call 803-896-5000 to check the status of your documents.

The requirements for international customers are different. For a **complete list** of documents for international customers, see the International Customers' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94). You will find this form at www.scdmvonline.com.

6. What if I do not have all of the documents when I visit a branch?

If you're interested in receiving a REAL ID-compliant beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card, the SCDMV **must** have **all** of the required documents on file. If you prepare early, you should have a smooth visit to an SCDMV branch. Please come with all required documents.

For a **complete list** of accepted documents, see the United States Citizens' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-93). If you're an international customer, see the International Customers' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94). These forms are available at www.scdmvonline.com.

7. Can I have a non-compliant and a compliant card?

No. If you choose to change your South Carolina beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card to a REAL ID-compliant card, you will destroy or turn in your old beginner's permit, license, or ID, and you will receive a new card.

You may **only** have one card. You will either have a REAL ID-compliant SC beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card or a non-compliant SC beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card. You **cannot** have both.

8. If my driver's license expires before REAL IDs are available, do I have to pay to renew my driver's license and pay to get a REAL ID? So, am I paying twice?

Yes. **Do not** drive with an expired driver's license. If your license expires before REAL IDs are available and you know you want to change to a REAL ID-compliant license, you will pay for the new license when you switch your current card to a REAL ID-compliant card. It is optional and voluntary to change your current license to a REAL ID-compliant license.

9. Why would I want a REAL ID?

A federally accepted identification (whether it's a REAL ID-compliant South Carolina beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card, US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, etc.) must be used as your identification to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal building on and after **October 1, 2020**.

10. Does the REAL ID look different than a non-compliant DL/ID?

Yes. A REAL ID-compliant beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card will include a gold star. A non-compliant beginner's permit, license, or ID will include the words "Not For Federal Identification" and it will not have a gold star.

11. What happens if I do not switch to REAL ID?

If you do not have a federally accepted form of identification (whether that's a REAL ID-compliant South Carolina license or identification card, US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, etc.), you will not be able to use your SC driver's license or ID to board a domestic flight or visit a secure federal building on and after October 1, 2020.

You may use your valid US Passport, US Passport Card, or other federally approved identification to board a plane or a secure federal building instead, but you **must** have it with you when doing the above activities.

If you have a non-compliant SC license, you will still be able to drive, vote, receive federal benefits you're entitled to (Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.), and access hospitals, among other things. If you have a non-compliant SC ID, you **do not** have driving privileges.

12. Am I still able to drive with my non-compliant driver's license?

Yes. The "compliant/non-compliant" status is used only for boarding a domestic flight or visiting a secure federal building. It does not affect your driving privilege. If you have a South Carolina identification card, you **do not** have driving privileges.

13. Can I use my existing driver's license or identification card to fly on an airplane or do I have to wait until I get a REAL ID?

Yes. When the state is fully certified, it is anticipated that you may use your current, unexpired South Carolina license or ID to board an airplane until **October 1, 2020**.

On and after **October 1, 2020**, you must have a valid federally accepted identification (whether that's a REAL ID-compliant SC license or ID, US

Passport/Passport Card, military ID, etc.) to pass a TSA checkpoint in airports nationwide.

14. Will I be able to have both a REAL ID-compliant driver's license and a REAL ID-compliant identification card?

No. You can only hold a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a REAL ID-compliant identification card. You cannot have both a REAL ID-compliant and a non-compliant driver's license or ID. If you have an identification card (whether compliant or non-compliant with the federal REAL ID Act), you do **not** have driving privileges.

15. Does everyone need a new driver's license or identification card?

No. Receiving a REAL ID-compliant license or ID is optional and voluntary.

Everyone must have some form of federally approved identification (whether that's an South Carolina REAL ID-compliant beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card, valid US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, or another federally approved identification) if you plan to enter federal facilities or board a commercial flight on and after **October 1, 2020**.

16. What methods can I get my REAL ID? Online, through mail, or only in person?

In the future, you may be able to get a REAL ID-compliant driver's license online if the SCDMV has all of the needed documents on file for you. You will not be able to get a license online if your license is suspended. You will be able to get one in person with the required documentation.

The SCDMV has not determined if you can get a REAL ID through the mail at this time.

17. Can the SCDMV use my documents already on file?

Yes. If you received your first South Carolina beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card after November 2010, the SCDMV should have your documents on file. If you believe you fall into this category, you may call 803-896-5000 to confirm the agency has your documents. In the future, you will be able to check the status of your documentation at scdmvonline.com.

18. How long do I have to get my new REAL ID?

Once the cards are available, you may change your license at any time if the correct documentation is on file. On and after **October 1, 2020**, you must have a federally approved identification (whether that's a South Carolina license or ID this is REAL ID-compliant, US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, or other federally approved identification).

19. Do I need to switch to REAL ID if I don't fly, but travel by train, bus, or cruise?

You should check with the specific travel method you're interested in using.

20. Will I be turned away from traveling if I show up without a REAL ID? Is there an exception process?

You should check with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), specific airline, or your travel agent.

21. If I don't switch to a REAL ID, will my non-compliant DL/ID still be valid?

Yes, to do certain things.

You do **not** need a REAL ID-compliant beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card to drive, vote, receive federal benefits for which you're entitled (Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration, etc.), access hospitals, visit non-secure federal facilities (such as a post office), and participate in law enforcement proceedings (such as serving on a federal jury, participating in a federal investigation, testifying in federal court).

The REAL ID Act is a federal law that affects federal agencies and buildings.

22. Can I still vote if I do not have a REAL ID?

Yes.

23. Is a US Passport the only other acceptable identification if I'm not compliant?

No. For a complete list of federally approved identification, check www.dhs.gov/real-id.

24. What will happen after the deadline if I need to go onto the military base? Will there be another extension?

With Governor Henry McMaster's signature on H. 3358, the State of South Carolina anticipates receiving another extension through October 10, 2017. So, your current, unexpired South Carolina beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card may be used as your identification to visit a secure federal facility until then.

The State of South Carolina anticipates being certified as being fully compliant well before October 1, 2020 or receiving additional extension every October.

When this happens, your current, valid SC beginner's permit, license or ID may be used as your identification to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal facility until October 1, 2020. On and after **October 1, 2020** you must have a federally accepted identification (whether that's a REAL ID-compliant SC

license or ID, US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, etc.) in order to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal facility.

25. How will dependents of DOD, military, and veterans access federal facilities?

On and after October 1, 2020 you **must** have a federally accepted identification (whether that's a REAL ID-compliant SC license or ID, US Passport/Passport Card, military ID, etc.) to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal building. For a complete list of federally acceptable identification, visit dhs.gov/real-id.

26. I do not have an original or certified copy (not notarized) of my birth certificate, what should I do?

If you were born in South Carolina, you should check with the [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control](#) for its requirements on getting an original or certified copy of your birth certificate.

If you were not born in SC, first, visit VitalChek.com. If your birth state is not on vital check, you should contact the vital records office in your state of birth.

Additionally, the United States Citizens' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-93) includes a **complete list** of accepted documents. If you have a different document that proves your identity/date of birth/US citizenship (as outlined on the form), you may use that instead of your birth certificate.

The requirements are different for international customers. If you're an international customer, you should check the document requirements on the International Customers' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94).

27. How will the REAL ID affect international customers?

If you're an international customer, you should check the International Customers' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94) for a **complete list** of the documents the SCDMV will accept in order to issue you a REAL ID-compliant beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card.

28. Will anything change for customers seeking a beginner's permit?

A customer interested in getting a beginner's permit must check the documentation requirements on the United States Citizen's Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-93) or the International Customers' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94).

The SCDMV made changes to what it will accept as a customer's proof of South Carolina address in May of 2017. You must have **two** proofs of your current SC address when you get a beginner's permit. A complete list of accepted proofs of address is found on the United States Citizens' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-93) and the International Customers' Checklist (SCDMV Form MV-94). Visit

www.scdmvonline.com for these forms.

29. When will a REAL ID expire? Will it be the same date of the one I have now?

No. Once REAL IDs are available, **all regular (Class D) driver's licenses** will expire eight years after they're issued. Whether you choose to get a REAL ID-compliant license or a non-compliant license, your license will expire eight years after it's issued. If you have an identification card, whether it is REAL ID-compliant or not, it will expire five years after it's issued.

If you're 65 or older, once the REAL IDs are available, your license will expire in eight years instead of five.

If you have a commercial driver's license, it will expire five years after it's issued. If you're an international customer, your beginner's permit, driver's license, or ID will be valid for **no more than** five years.

30. I do not want a REAL ID, can I keep the one I have now?

Yes. If you are not interested in changing your current South Carolina beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card to a REAL ID-compliant card, you may keep the card you have now.

On and after **October 1, 2020** you will **not** be able to use this card as your form of identification to board a commercial flight or visit a secure federal facility.

31. Once REAL IDs are available, will I still be able to get a driver's license or identification card that looks like the one I have now?

No. Once REAL IDs are available, the SCDMV will no longer produce the South Carolina driver's licenses and identification cards as they look today.

For example, once the state starts issuing REAL IDs (whether you choose to get a compliant or non-compliant card), if you lose your current SC license or ID, you will not be able to receive a duplicate of that card. You **must** have the required documents on file with the SCDMV to get a REAL ID-compliant card, or you will be issued a non-compliant card.

For example, once the state starts issuing REAL IDs (whether you choose to get a compliant or non-compliant card), if you change your name, address, or photograph on your current SC license or ID, you will not be able to receive a current card with your new information. You **must** have the required documents on file with the SCDMV to get a REAL ID-compliant card, or you will be issued a non-compliant card.

For example, once the state starts issuing REAL IDs (whether you choose to get a compliant or non-compliant card), if your current SC license or ID is damaged, or if you choose to add the “Veteran” designation, for example, you will not be able to receive a current card with this information. You **must** have the required documents on file with the SCDMV to get a REAL ID-compliant card, or you will be issued a non-compliant card.

If you’re an international customer or have a commercial driver’s license (CDL), you **must** bring **all** required documents like you’re required to do now when you renew the license or ID you hold. If you do not bring **all** required document, you will not be able to receive **any** form of an SC license or ID.