

CA REAL ID FAQs

What does a REAL ID look like?

A golden bear with a white star in it appears in the top right corner of California REAL ID Act license cards.



What is the deadline for getting a REAL ID?

By 10/01/2020. California licenses that are not REAL ID Act compliant should still be accepted by federal buildings and airports until 10/01/2020.

Because California has not implemented the REAL ID Act, if you are traveling to a state that has, ***your state ID is still valid*** to travel to the new state even if it is not a REAL ID.

How can the CA DMV verify my identity when I apply for a REAL ID?

A current valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit, can be used to validate your identity.

How does the CA DMV verify legal presence documents?

The CA DMV first tries to verify a person's documents, however, if the CA DMV headquarters cannot verify the documents, they ask the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to verify legal presence.

The CA DMV will offer a waiver for people to permit the DMV to share their legal presence documents with DHS for verification to obtain a license. This waiver will only be necessary if the DMV cannot verify the person's documents in the system.

Is there a way to check what states have implemented the REAL ID Act?

The DHS website has an interactive map of states that have implemented the REAL ID Act, and those who have received an extension: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>

We highly encourage folks to apply for REAL ID compliant licenses while they still have DACA.