



What is Real ID?

Real ID refers to the Real ID Act Congress passed in 2005. Based on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission, the Real ID Act was established to set security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards.

The act covers 56 jurisdictions, including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The State of Indiana was an early adopter of the security standards established in the Real ID Act and was the first state to become fully compliant with the law.

Along with added identity protection, compliant credentials (driver's licenses and Identification cards) are acceptable for federal identification purposes when required. Situations which require a Real ID-compliant credential include:

- **Boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft (effective 10/1/2020)**
- **Accessing federal facilities that require identification to enter, such as military bases**
- **Entering nuclear power plants**

A Real ID-compliant credential is required for everyone applying for a **new** Indiana driver's license, learner's permit, or state identification card. Customers who are renewing, amending, or replacing their **current** Indiana credential have the option of applying for a Real ID-compliant credential or a non-compliant credential, but are encouraged to obtain a Real ID-compliant credential.

Applicants for a Real ID-compliant credential must bring original versions or certified copies of documents to a BMV branch to prove their identity (name and date of birth), Social Security number, lawful status in the United States, and Indiana residency.

Persons who are not United States citizens (legal temporary or permanent residents) are required to have a Real ID-compliant credential and must present full documentation to apply for a new credential or to renew or replace their existing non-compliant credential. This includes providing documents which prove identity (name and date of birth), Social Security number (or ineligibility for a SSN), lawful status in the United States, and Indiana residency.