



STATE OF MICHIGAN
 RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 LANSING

Michigan Begins Issuing REAL ID-compliant licenses and ID Cards

Aug. 21, 2017

Dear Law Enforcement Official:

We are pleased to announce that the state of Michigan will begin issuing driver’s licenses and ID cards that comply with the federal REAL ID Act. Compliant cards will be marked with a star inside a gold circle . Standard cards that do not meet the REAL ID requirements will be marked “Not for Federal Identification.”

Michigan residents will be able to decide for themselves whether to get a compliant card or keep their standard card, which will not be accepted for federal government purposes beginning Oct. 1, 2020.

Please be aware that regardless of whether a card is REAL ID-compliant or not, it still may be used for driving, identification purposes and buying age-restricted items. REAL ID-compliant cards are required by federal agencies for some uses, not by the state of Michigan.

After Oct. 1, 2020, Michigan residents without a REAL ID-compliant card will not be able to fly or enter certain federal facilities or nuclear power plants without an acceptable alternative form of documentation, such as a valid U.S. passport.

To obtain a compliant card, Michigan residents will need to bring a certified birth certificate or another approved document to any Secretary of State office.

In addition to the standard and REAL ID-compliant cards, Michigan also issues enhanced driver’s licenses and ID cards, which are marked with an American flag. Enhanced cards also are REAL ID-compliant cards.

The federal REAL ID standards for driver’s licenses and ID cards were created in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks based on recommendations from the 9/11 Commission. The REAL ID Act sets document and security protocols for the production of driver’s licenses and ID cards, including the use of features to prevent illegal copying or altering. It also helps protect against fraud and misuse by requiring people to verify their Social Security number, identity, residency, and citizenship or legal presence when applying for a license or ID card.

Questions about the new REAL ID-compliant card can be directed to the Michigan Department of State Information Center’s LEIN operators at ORI MI230015V.

Best regards,

Fred Woodhams
 Interim Communications Director
 Michigan Department of State



ABOVE: A new REAL ID-compliant driver’s license.

BELOW: A standard license marked “Not for Federal Identification”

