

# Know Before You Go

## The Real Difference Between REAL ID and Federal Non-Compliant

### REAL ID Driver's License/Identification Card

- To get one, you must visit a DMV office and provide:
  1. Identity (One document)
  2. California Residency (Two documents)
  3. Social Security Number (Exceptions may apply.)
- Use it to fly within the U.S.
- Use it to enter secure federal facilities.  
(EX: federal courthouses, military bases)
- Features a bear and star.
- If you already have a REAL ID, you may be able to renew online.



### Federal Non-Compliant Driver's License/ID Card

- May renew online without going to a DMV office.\* (If eligible.)
- NOT** allowed to board an airplane starting May 2025.
- NOT** allowed to enter secure federal facilities starting May 2025.
- May require showing further evidence of legal presence to purchase a firearm.
- Indicates "FEDERAL LIMITS APPLY"



*If you do not choose a REAL ID, you will be issued the federal non-compliant driver's license or identification card.*

For more information visit [REALID.dmv.ca.gov](https://REALID.dmv.ca.gov)

*\*Certain customers may be required to renew in person. Check your DMV renewal paperwork to find out if this applies.*