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 2023.
• NOT allowed to enter secure federal facilities starting May 2023.
• 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

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