

# Oregon DMV verifies your lawful-presence status

You must prove U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S. when you apply for Oregon driving privileges or an identification card.

If your presence in the U.S. is any type of temporary stay, and not permanent, you must show DMV proof of lawful presence every time you replace or renew your card.

If you are not a U.S. citizen or you are a naturalized citizen,

your proof of lawful presence in the country must be a valid, unexpired document issued by the U.S. government – such as a U.S. visa, alien ID card, travel authorization or naturalization certificate. DMV will electronically verify the information on these documents using the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE).

## What to expect at DMV

**1** SAVE is electronic, so in most cases it will verify your lawful-presence status immediately. Then DMV will issue you a driver license or ID card if you also meet all other Oregon requirements for those privileges.

**2** If SAVE requires additional verification, your application cannot be completed that day. DMV will submit a request on your behalf to the Department of Homeland Security and provide you with a form. The form will ask you to wait 10 business days, then to call DMV Customer Assistance to see if SAVE has verified your lawful presence. If so, you will be asked to return to the DMV field office to finish your application. **You then must again bring your original unexpired U.S. lawful-presence documents and other ID to DMV.**

**3** If the Department of Homeland Security still cannot verify your lawful-presence status, DMV will offer you the option of a manual check. If you wish to continue, DMV will send copies of your lawful-presence documents to the Department of Homeland Security for the manual check. This is a lengthy process, so we ask you to wait 45 business days before calling DMV Customer Assistance. If your documents pass this check, Customer Assistance will ask you to return to the DMV field office to finish your application. **You then must again bring your original unexpired U.S. lawful-presence documents and other ID to DMV.**

**4** If the Department of Homeland Security still cannot verify your lawful-presence status with the manual check, DMV cannot issue Oregon driving privileges or an ID card to you. DMV will provide you with a list of documents that can prove lawful presence in the U.S. and with contact information for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

## Don't wait until your expiration date!

- It can take a long time to find or get documents that prove lawful presence in the U.S., so don't wait until your license or ID card expires to prepare for your renewal.
- A complete list of acceptable documents that prove lawful presence in the U.S. is available at [www.OregonDMV.com](http://www.OregonDMV.com) or your local DMV office.
- All documents, including proof of lawful presence in the U.S., must be originals, not copies.
- Proof of lawful presence is in addition to other state requirements for driving privileges or ID cards – such as proof of identity, proof of Oregon address, passage of tests and payment of fees.
- DMV does not contact law enforcement if a customer fails a SAVE check. However, regardless of lawful presence status, DMV will contact law enforcement if a customer presents false or altered ID documents of any type.

### If you have questions

Visit [www.OregonDMV.com](http://www.OregonDMV.com) or call **DMV Customer Assistance** at the DMV telephone number listed in your local phone directory. Also, TTY for the hearing impaired is available at 503-945-5001.