

Are you REAL ID ready? The TSA travel deadline is just months away.

For air travel within the U.S., most people use their state driver's license or ID card to get through the Transportation Security Administration security. They can also use a passport, as they would for an international flight. But starting May 7, 2025, if you're 18 or older, your standard Oregon driver's license or ID card will no longer get you through the TSA checkpoint.

You will need to show a REAL ID-compliant state driver's license or ID card, or other [federally accepted identification](#), like a passport or passport card. With the deadline just months away, the Oregon DMV is asking everyone to be informed and make a plan.

Since Oregon's REAL ID option became available in July 2020, more than a quarter of the 3.7 million Oregon license and ID card holders have chosen it over the standard card. Not everyone needs a REAL ID, but everyone needs to know how it works to make an informed choice.

Airports across the country expect that infrequent travelers will learn about REAL ID next year when they arrive at airport security. The TSA has an alternate security process for people who don't have the right ID, but it takes longer. And if the TSA sees the expected surge in people needing that process, it could take so much longer that many people will miss their flights.

As the May 7, 2025, deadline approaches, DMVs across the country will be overwhelmed with applicants for REAL ID driver's licenses – at a time of chronic staff shortages nationwide. And the State Department will be overwhelmed with applications for passports.

If that's not enough reason to act now, consider this: What if you need additional documents to apply for REAL ID or a passport? You may need to order a certified birth certificate from the state where you were born to apply for a REAL ID card or passport. State agencies that issue birth certificates may also be overwhelmed, adding weeks more to your application processes. And once you get to DMV and conclude your transaction, it will be about two weeks before the card arrives in the mail. TSA won't accept the temporary paper card you get at the DMV.

In other words, if you book a flight next year a couple weeks ahead of the deadline and don't have the necessary ID, you won't have enough time to get that ID.

The good news is that the 2024 Legislature authorized DMV to hire 26 staff to work in field offices exclusively for REAL ID transactions. They've been hired and trained, and we're opening many more appointment slots to accommodate customers' needs before the deadline. You can walk in or make an appointment at [DMV2U.Oregon.gov](https://dmv2u.oregon.gov).

Your REAL ID is your most important carry-on. Don't get grounded for months by waiting too long, even if there is only a small chance you'll travel by air. If your Oregon driver's license or ID card is expiring, get the REAL ID option when you renew. You can renew up to one year before your license expires. You can also replace your card – and add the REAL ID option – anytime. Find out what you need to bring to DMV with our [online tool here](#) today.