

“P” 7 (2017)

“M” 7 (2017)

Albany, New York

October 25, 2017

TO: All Enforcement Agencies and Magistrates

SUBJECT: New *REAL ID* Driver License/Non-Driver Identification Cards and New
“Not For Federal Purposes” Driver License/Non-Driver Identification Cards

Effective October 30, 2017, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will begin offering REAL ID driver licenses and non-driver identification cards. The REAL ID documents will meet the requirements of the REAL ID Act, passed by Congress in 2005, that establishes minimum federal security standards for state-issued driver licenses, permits and ID cards. The Act also prohibits federal agencies, like the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), from accepting cards for official purposes from states that do not meet these standards.

The REAL ID license (or non-driver ID) will serve as both the customer’s driver license (or state recognized ID) and as a federally accepted identification that will allow the customer to board a domestic flight (within the U.S.), or enter military bases and certain federal facilities. The Enhanced Driver’s license (or non-driver ID), issued by DMV since September 16, 2008, also meets the federal standards. All classes of license (learner permits, commercial driver licenses, restricted/conditional licenses, non-driver IDs, etc.) can be issued as a REAL ID or Enhanced document, with the sole exception of a commercial driver permit. REAL ID documents and Enhanced documents both meet the federal standards for identification established in the REAL ID Act. The Machine Readable Zone (MRZ) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag found in the Enhanced document are not part of the REAL ID document.

To obtain a REAL ID document, customers must apply in person as they would to apply for an original. The REAL ID document looks very similar to the current NYS driver license/non-driver identification card, but it will have a black circle surrounding a five-pointed star in the upper right corner of the front of the document (see attached.)

There are changes to the 2-D barcode on all licenses, permits and non-driver ID cards. Organizations that rely on scanning the license barcode should contact DMV for details on those changes.

A REAL ID Driver License/Non-Driver Identification Card is optional. For customers who decide not to get a REAL ID, or an Enhanced document, DMV will continue to issue a 'Standard' License. As of the effective date (October 30th, 2017) the Standard License will have the phrase "NOT FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES" in the upper right corner of the front of the document (see attached.) The Standard License continues to meet the same NYS and Federal security requirements but it will not be accepted for Federal Purposes.

Please share this information with all appropriate staff. Thank you.

Theresa L. Egan
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Attachment

Appearance of a *REAL ID* Driver License
(Note the star in a black circle, upper right.)



Appearance of a standard driver license, issued on
and after October 30th, 2017

