



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2020-006a

April 3, 2020

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

FROM: Buddy Ey, Chief
Finance/Admin Section
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2020-006a – (Revised) Real ID Implementation –
Oct 1, 2021

This revision extends the Real ID implementation date to October 1, 2021 “due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration”. This was announced on March 26, 2020 by Department of Homeland Security Acting Secretary Chad Wolfe (press release attached).

The purpose of this General Memorandum (GM) is to provide the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) with information regarding the Real ID Act, the Real ID, and acceptable forms of identification. The requirement for an acceptable form of identification to board a commercial aircraft or enter a federal facility is effective **October 1, 2021**.

The REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for license issuance and production and prohibits Federal agencies from accepting for certain purposes driver’s licenses and identification cards from states not meeting the Act’s minimum standards.

The purposes covered by the Act are:

- accessing Federal facilities
- boarding federally regulated commercial aircraft
- entering nuclear power plants

Effective **October 1, 2021**, to board commercial aircraft or enter federal facilities without delay, System members will need an acceptable form of identification. A list of acceptable documentation is attached and at the link below. U.S. Passports are an acceptable form of identification. Standard Driver’s Licenses are not, they must be “Enhanced” or Real ID compliant (check with your state). Many states require an appointment and specific documentation in order to upgrade a standard driver’s license to a Real ID (check with your state). Your FEMA Affiliate PIV card may be readily accepted at some federal facilities and not at others, and most likely will not be accepted at TSA airport checkpoints. Most sites will have contingency plans for those wishing to gain entry without acceptable identification, however it will require additional documentation, validation and subsequent delay.

The following links contain additional information

- Real ID - main page
<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>



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Real ID - Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-frequently-asked-questions>

- TSA – Acceptable Documents List
<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification>

Attachment(s):

Real ID – Frequently Asked Questions

Real ID – Acceptable Documents List

cc:

US&R Strategic Group

US&R Advisory Group

US&R Branch Staff

FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives

 Official website of the Department of Homeland Security



U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

Acting Secretary Chad Wolf Statement on the REAL ID Enforcement Deadline

Release Date: March 26, 2020

“Due to circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the national emergency declaration, the Department of Homeland Security, as directed by President Donald J. Trump, is extending the REAL ID enforcement deadline beyond the current October 1, 2020 deadline. I have determined that states require a twelve-month delay and that the new deadline for REAL ID enforcement is October 1, 2021. DHS will publish a notice of the new deadline in the Federal Register in the coming days.

“The federal, state and local response to the spread of the Coronavirus here in the United States necessitates a delay in this deadline. Our state and local partners are working tirelessly with the Administration to flatten the curve and, therefore, we want to remove any impediments to response and recovery efforts. States across the country are temporarily closing or restricting access to DMVs. This action will preclude millions of people from applying for and receiving their REAL ID. Extending the deadline will also allow the Department to work with Congress to implement needed changes to expedite the issuance of REAL IDs once the current health crisis concludes.

“Protecting both the health and national security of the American people continues to be the top priority for the President of the United States and the Department of Homeland Security.”