On October 1, 2020, the federal government will require that your Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card meet specific requirements if you wish to use it for identification for things such as boarding an airplane or entering secure federal facilities. Until that time, your current Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card will continue to be accepted for those purposes.

On January 3, 2017, the New Hampshire DMV will begin offering Driver Licenses and Non-Driver Identification Cards that will be compliant with federal requirements, also referred to as REAL ID compliant identification. You are not required to obtain a REAL ID compliant identification, since other forms of identification, such as a Passport, will be accepted for airplane boarding and for other federal purposes.

Should you wish to get a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card, wait until the time of your regular renewal, since your current Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card may be used for federal identification purposes until October 1, 2020. An application for an initial REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card (whether new or renewal), will have to be done in person and certain documentation will be required.

A REAL ID compliant identification (Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card) will be indicated by a gold star symbol in the upper right hand corner.

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO ENSURE YOU HAVE ALL YOU NEED WHEN APPLYING FOR REAL ID

Bring ONE of the following to prove identity:
• Valid, unexpired U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport Card
• Certified copy of your birth certificate with a raised seal or stamp of the issuing authority. A hospital issued certificate is NOT acceptable.
• Certificate of Naturalization
• Certificate of Citizenship
• Valid, unexpired Permanent Resident card issued by the Dept of Homeland Security or Immigration and Naturalization Service

NOTE: If you have legally changed your name from what is on your identity document you must provide certified documents supporting all name changes.

AND

Bring ONE of the following that has your Social Security number:
• Social Security Card
• Paystub with full SSN dated within the last 60 days
• W-2 form with full SSN
• Social Security Admin 1099 form

AND

Bring TWO of the following that have your name and address:
• Current NH Driver License or Non-Driver ID
• Valid Vehicle Registration
• Utility bill or agreement dated within the last 60 days
• Mortgage statement dated within the last 60 days
• Lease or rental agreement

Other documents may be used. A complete list of all acceptable documents can be found at: www.nh.gov/dmv
REAL ID FAQs

What is REAL ID?
Congress enacted the REAL ID Act in 2005. The act created minimum security standards for types of identification and prohibited federal agencies, such as the TSA, from accepting forms of identification that do not meet the new standard. A REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card has to meet these standards in order to be used for federal identification purposes.

What is the difference between REAL ID compliant and non-compliant identification?
There are two major differences between a REAL ID compliant and non-compliant identification:

Physical Appearance:
A REAL ID compliant identification (Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card) will be indicated by a gold star symbol in the upper right hand corner.
A non-compliant identification will state “Not For Federal Identification.”

Usage:
After October 1, 2020, non-compliant identification (Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card) will not be accepted for federal identification purposes such as air travel or access to federal facilities.

When will REAL ID compliant identification be available in New Hampshire?
REAL ID Driver Licenses and Non-Driver Identification Cards will be available starting January 3, 2017.

Will my current identification work for air travel or access to federal facilities?
Yes, until October 1, 2020, your current identification will continue to be accepted for federal purposes. After October 1, 2020, your identification will need to be REAL ID compliant in order to be used for federal purposes such as air travel or access to federal facilities.

Am I required to get a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card?
No. Receiving a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card is a choice, not a requirement.

When should I get my REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card if I want one?
Requesting a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card should be done at the time of your regular renewal. Because your current identification may be used for federal purposes until October 1, 2020, there is no need to come in early to do this.

What if I do not want a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card?
There are several forms of identification that can be used for federal identification purposes, including a valid Passport. A list of federally acceptable ID types for air travel can be found at: www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification.

What do I need to do to get a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card?
Application for an initial REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card must be done in person. You will need to gather several documents to bring with you to the DMV. 

May I still have my photograph and social security number deleted from DMV records if I choose to get REAL ID compliant identification?
No. Part of the requirements of REAL ID are that your photograph and Social Security number are retained by the NH DMV. If you wish to have them deleted from our records, as allowed by NH law, you will not be able to choose to receive a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card.

Will REAL ID compliant identification cost more?
No. There is no additional cost for a REAL ID compliant Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card.

Where do I go to get a REAL ID Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card?
Your initial application for a REAL ID Driver License or Non-Driver Identification Card must be done in person at any of our DMV offices during your next renewal after January 3, 2017. Subsequent renewals may be done online.

Where may I get more information?
Additional information can be found at: www.nh.gov/dmv. When filling out your original Driver License, renewal or Non-Driver ID application, check the “REAL ID” box at the top of the form.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES