



INFORMATION BULLETIN

*for Allied
Agencies*

January 9, 2018

BULLETIN NUMBER 237

REAL ID DRIVER LICENSES AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Beginning October 1, 2020, the federal government will require all state driver license (DL) or identification (ID) cards to be REAL ID compliant, in order to use as a valid ID to board a domestic flight, or to enter military installations and most federal facilities.

Effective January 22, 2018, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) will begin producing all DL and ID cards with a new card design.

The federal compliant REAL ID DL or ID card is optional and is not required to drive, apply for or receive federal benefits, enter a federal facility that does not require ID, visit a hospital, or receive life-saving services. A valid United States (U.S.) passport or U.S. passport card, military ID, or other Transportation Security Administration (TSA) approved ID may be used to pass through TSA checkpoints nationwide, and visit a secure federal building or military base.

Federal law requires REAL ID cards to have distinct designs, colors, and/or marking(s). Individuals who are eligible and choose to apply for a REAL ID card will receive a card with a marking in the upper right corner with the California grizzly bear and a star.

Individuals who know they will not be boarding a domestic flight or visiting a secure federal facility or military base, or who have another form of federally approved ID, may decide not to apply for a REAL ID. Individuals who choose not to apply for a REAL ID or who do not meet the requirements of REAL ID, will receive a federal non-compliant card. The federal non-compliant DL and ID card will display the words "Federal Limits Apply."

REAL ID and federal non-compliant DL/ID cards are both valid forms of ID. Additional information can be found on the DMV Web site at:

www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/realid. A sample image portraying a REAL ID compliant DL is included with this Information Bulletin. The California grizzly bear and



star are distinctively shown in the upper right-hand corner. A sample image portraying the federal non-compliant DL is also attached.

Discriminating against an individual based on possession of a DL issued pursuant to Section 12801.9 California Vehicle Code (CVC) is a violation of the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Section 51 of the Civil Code). An immigration/citizenship status-related criminal investigation, arrest, or detention based on the possession of a DL issued pursuant to this section is prohibited and a violation of Section 12801.9(j) CVC.

Any questions pertaining to the contents of this Information Bulletin should be directed to the Commercial Vehicle Section at (916) 843-3400.

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ANNEXES A, B

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ANNEX A

FEDERAL COMPLIANT REAL ID DRIVER LICENSE



Figure 1. Federal compliant REAL ID driver license.

ANNEX B

FEDERAL NON-COMPLIANT REAL ID DRIVER LICENSE



Figure 2. Federal non-compliant REAL ID driver license.