



Beginning **early January 2013**, the BMV will issue SAFE ID driver licenses (DL) and identification cards (ID). This means that Ohio has met standards set forth by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for issuing secure identification documents.

Traditional DL/ID cards will continue to be issued over the counter at local Deputy Registrars. However, Safe ID cards will be printed at a centralized location and then mailed to customers. A secure, paper interim driver license, permit, or identification card will be provided to customers at the Deputy Registrar agency. This interim DL/ID is valid for 45 days. In addition, the customer's previous DL or ID will be hole-punched and returned to them to be used as an additional proof of identity with the interim card.

Safe ID FAQ's

Q1: What is Safe ID?

A1: Safe ID refers to a State of Ohio driver license (DL) or identification card (ID) that is in compliance with the Federal REAL ID Act of 2005. The 9/11 Commission recommended that the U.S. improve its system for issuing secure identification documents. Congress responded to this recommendation by passing the Real ID Act.

Q2: Is this a National ID card?

A2: No. The REAL ID Act simply established common, secure standards for issuing DL/ID cards.

Q3: Does Safe ID affect all classes of driver licenses and identification cards?

A3: Yes, it affects all classes of driver licenses (including CDL's), permits, and identification cards.

Q4: Why do I need a Safe ID?

A4: Beginning December 1, 2017, you will be required to have a DL or ID card that is compliant with the REAL ID Act in order for it to be accepted by the federal government for "official purposes." "Official purposes" is defined by The Secretary of Homeland Security as boarding commercially operated airlines, entering federal buildings (i.e. Social Security Administration), and nuclear power plants.

Q5: When will Ohio start issuing Safe ID's?

A5: Ohio will begin issuing Safe IDs by early January, 2013.

Q6: Will I be required to immediately replace my current Ohio DL/ID card with a Safe ID card?

A6: No. A Safe ID driver license or ID card can be issued the next time you renew or replace your DL or ID card.

Q7: How is a Safe ID different from my current driver license/ID card?

A7: The Safe ID will have a different look and feel from traditional DL/ID cards. The new DL/ID cards will also have enhanced security features in order to prevent counterfeiting, fraud, and identity theft.

Q8: Will I still be able to get my Ohio driver license or ID card at any deputy registrar location?

A8: Yes. All deputy registrar agencies will continue to issue traditional DL/IDs over the counter. In addition, they will issue interim DL/IDs for those customers choosing Safe IDs. Safe IDs will be manufactured at a central location and mailed to the customer.

Q9: Can I use the hole-punched DL/ID card as identification?

A9: The hole-punched card is not valid by itself, but may be used as an additional proof of identity with the interim card. It will be up to businesses, government agencies and other states and countries as to whether or not they will accept the interim card together with the hole-punched card as identification. You will be instructed to destroy the hole-punched card once you receive your new card in the mail.

Q10: Will businesses accept the interim driver license, instruction permit, or identification card as identification for cashing checks, buying liquor, etc.?

A10: It is up to those businesses as to whether or not they will accept the interim card as identification. While you carry the interim DL/ID, you should carry additional proof of identification (in case a business requests further ID).

Q11: Will Social Security, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and other government agencies accept the interim license as identification?

A11: It is up to government agencies as to whether or not they will accept the interim DL/ID as identification. While you carry the interim DL/ID, you should carry additional proof of identification in case a government agency or airport security requests further ID. The Ohio BMV will inform government agencies that check ID cards of the changes.

Q12: Will other states/countries recognize the interim driver license, instruction permit, or identification card as valid identification?

A12: It is up to other states and countries as to whether or not they will accept the interim DL/ID as identification.

Q13: Do I have to pay extra for the interim DL/ID or instruction permit?

A13: No, it is included in the Safe ID card issuance fee.

Q14: Does the interim driver license, instruction permit, or identification card expire?

A14: The interim DL/ID or permit is valid for 45 days or until you receive your permanent card.

Q15: Who will have access to the information that the Ohio BMV will collect?

A15: As they do now, only authorized officials at BMV will have access to records. Ohio has a comprehensive security plan for safeguarding information collected, stored, or disseminated for purposes of complying with the REAL ID Act.

Q16: Is my Ohio driver license still accepted on airlines and in federal buildings?

A16: Yes. Currently, the Ohio DL/ID you possess will be honored by Transportation Security Administration at airports and for entering federal buildings.

Q17: How long will federal agencies continue to accept my non-REAL ID compliant Ohio DL/ID for “official purposes?”

A17: If your DL/ID was issued on or after May 16, 2011, federal agencies will continue to accept it until it expires. However, if your DL/ID was issued before May 16, 2011, it may no longer be accepted by federal agencies after December 1, 2014; the REAL ID compliance deadline for those under 50 years of age.

Q18: Should I come into a Deputy Registrar agency much earlier than my license renewal date?

A18: No, continue to conduct business with the BMV as you normally would.

Q19: How will this affect my teen son or daughter applying for a first time DL?

A19: The requirements for a driving permit will not change. Your son or daughter will go through the same process as before (bringing in a valid birth certificate and social security card, etc.)

Q20: Will the Safe ID cost me more money?

A20: It is more costly to manufacture a Safe ID than a traditional DL/ID. We anticipate an increase in cost for the Safe ID, but the amount is not known at this time.

Q21: Will I be able to have both a Safe ID driver license and a Safe ID identification card?

A21: No. Consistent with current law, you must choose either a driver license or identification card.

Q22: I have heard that the Safe ID DL/ID will contain a radio frequency (RFID) chip, is this true?

A22: No, the Safe ID card will not include an RFID chip. The RFID chip is part of the Enhanced Driver License (EDL) or Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) program. Ohio does not issue an EDL at this time.