

REAL ID SAMPLE BLOG



This sample blog is designed to inspire your editorial content—from op-eds to newsletter articles to letters to the editor. Replace anything in **red** with destination/organization-specific details and tailor to best fit your voice and message.

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What **[Your State's]** Travelers Need to Know About REAL ID

ARE YOU READY FOR REAL ID?

On October 1, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will implement the final phase of REAL ID enforcement, requiring Americans to present a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or another acceptable form of authenticated ID to go through airport security checkpoints.

REAL ID refers to a set of security standards established by Congress in 2005 for card issuance, card design and application processing that individual states must follow when issuing driver's licenses and other forms of identification; most REAL ID-

compliant driver's licenses feature a star in the upper-right corner. However, some states (MI, MN, NY, VT and WA) are issuing enhanced driver's licenses either instead of or in addition to REAL IDs, which are generally designated by a U.S. flag. **[Facts about REAL ID enforcement in your state: when your state became compliant or its deadline for compliancy.]**



However, an estimated 99 million Americans (39%) do not have any form of identification (e.g. REAL ID-compliant driver's license, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID or an enhanced driver's license) that will be accepted after October 1, 2020. Furthermore, the majority of Americans (57%) are unaware of the October 1, 2020 deadline for enforcement. Air travel risks being seriously disrupted if millions of passengers are turned away on October 1, 2020 for not having the necessary documents to fly. **[REAL ID compliance facts in your state: how many people have received REAL IDs, how long they have been able to get them, etc.]**

[Your organization] is working with the larger travel industry and our government partners to educate **[your state's]** travelers on REAL ID enforcement. Policy changes that allow alternative forms of authentication in place of a REAL ID at airport security checkpoints—including biometric screening and existing enrollment in Trusted Traveler Programs—can help mitigate the effects of REAL ID enforcement, while also ensuring a secure and efficient screening process.

It is our desire that all air travelers flying within the U.S. secure a REAL ID compliant form of identification well ahead of next year's deadline in order to keep the air travel process moving without disruption.

[Provide local resources, such as state DMV websites or links to REAL ID enforcement guidelines from local airports, destinations or lawmakers]

REAL ID enforcement is coming—let's make sure we're all prepared.