



Homeland
Security

SEP 14 2007

Mr. Neil Schuster
AAMVA President and CEO
American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators
4301 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 400
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. Schuster:

This letter is in response to questions your organization submitted asking that the Department of Homeland Security allow States additional time to submit REAL ID requests for extensions. Your comment to Section 37.63, Extension of deadline of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) says, "If final regulations are not issued until, e.g. August 2007, an October 2007 request for an extension deadline leaves states with little time to fully consider the implications of compliance and/or to seek legislative approval."

We would like to clarify that per the NPRM, the proposed deadline for States to request an extension is February 10, 2008. The final rule will ensure that States will at a minimum have until February 10, 2008 to submit their extension request. While the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) encouraged States in the REAL ID NPRM to submit an extension request as early as October 1, 2007, we now realize the final rule will not be released until late fall and that States therefore will not yet know the extent to which they will be ready to comply by May 11, 2008. Therefore, DHS encourages States to wait until the final rule is published this fall to submit their request for extension.

Please direct any follow-up questions regarding this matter to Mr. Darrell Williams, Director, REAL ID Program Office at (202) 447-3836 or via email at darrell.williams@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Richard Barth".

Richard Barth, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Policy Development