

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



# Homeland Security

OCT 11 2016

Mr. Kevin A. Shwedo  
Executive Director  
South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles  
P.O. Box 1498  
Blythewood, South Carolina 29016

Dear Director Shwedo:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has reviewed the supplementary information dated September 15, 2016, and your correspondence related to a possible extension of time to meet requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-13) and its implementing regulation.

Although the Department recognizes the State of South Carolina's efforts in enhancing the security of its driver's licenses and identification cards, DHS is unable to grant an extension. DHS's review found that South Carolina has not committed to meeting all remaining requirements and has not provided adequate justification for continued noncompliance. Enclosed is a list of DHS's findings about the regulatory provisions that South Carolina currently meets, plans to meet, and does not currently commit to meet.

South Carolina may request an extension if there are new developments or additional information regarding your jurisdiction's progress towards meeting outstanding requirements, the reasons that these standards remain unmet, and the reasons for continued noncompliance. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, but are not an alternative to compliance with the REAL ID Act.

Noncompliant states with extensions that expired on October 10, 2016, will be granted a grace period before enforcement begins to provide the opportunity for the state to take corrective action or for its residents to prepare for the change. Federal agencies may continue to accept driver's licenses and identification cards issued by these states for official purposes through January 29, 2017. Starting January 30, 2017, Federal agencies are prohibited from accepting driver's licenses and identification cards issued by these states for official purposes.

As we continue to implement the phased enforcement of the REAL ID Act, the consequences of continued noncompliance will grow. Currently, military bases, nuclear power plants, and Federal facilities may accept state-issued driver's licenses or identification cards for access purposes only if the document is issued by a state that is REAL ID compliant or that has received an extension. TSA will begin REAL ID enforcement for boarding commercial aircraft on January 22, 2018. As a result, from that time onwards, air travelers with a driver's license or identification card issued by a state that does not meet the requirements of the REAL ID Act

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(unless that state has been granted an extension to comply with the Act) must present an alternative form of identification acceptable to TSA in order to board a commercial flight.

Please do not hesitate to contact DHS's Office of State Issued Identification Support at (202) 447-3871 if you have any questions or comments about this notification. For all other homeland security matters, you may contact the DHS Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 282-9310.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and other homeland security issues.

Sincerely,



Alan D. Bersin  
Assistant Secretary  
for International Affairs  
& Chief Diplomatic Officer  
Office of Policy



Philip A. McNamara  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure

cc: Mark Keel, Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division