

Frequently Asked Questions Enhanced Driver's License and State Identification Card April 16, 2009

1. What is the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) and how does it affect me?

Beginning June 1, 2009, travelers must present an identity and citizenship document approved under WHTI to gain re-entry into the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. (Before you travel, please check to make sure that you have met the specific identity and citizenship document requirements for any country you may be visiting.)

U.S. citizens age 16 and older must present one of the following:

- a. Passport
- b. Passport card
- c. Enhanced driver's license or state ID card
- d. Trusted Traveler card (NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST)

U.S. citizens younger than 16 should present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate (original or a photocopy), a naturalization certificate or a citizenship card.

Young people ages 16-18 who are traveling in a group with adult supervision as part of a school, church, social organization or sports team need only present their birth certificate (original or a photocopy) or other proof of citizenship.

For more information on WHTI and other federal travel requirements, visit www.dhs.gov or www.travel.state.gov.

2. What is an enhanced driver's license or state ID card?

They are dual-purpose documents designed for the user's convenience. In addition to serving as a typical driver's license or ID card, they may be used to re-enter the U.S. at its land or sea ports when returning from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. This flexibility speeds your passage back across the border. They verify your identity and citizenship—no other proof is needed. Enhanced driver's licenses and ID cards are among the federally approved border-crossing documents when entering the U.S. required under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

3. How do I apply for an enhanced license or state ID card?

To obtain an enhanced license or ID, you must be a U.S. citizen. If you are applying for an enhanced license, you must also have no violations, suspensions, revocations or denials on your driving record that would prevent you from legally operating a motor vehicle. To apply:

- a. You must visit a Secretary of State office authorized to issue the enhanced license and ID card. Before visiting a branch office, make sure you have documentation of:
 - 1) A valid Social Security number (for example, a Social Security card)
 - 2) U.S. citizenship (for example, your original certified birth certificate)
 - 3) Identity (for example, a current Michigan photo license or ID card)
 - 4) Residency (for example, a current Michigan photo license or ID card)
- b. Have a new photograph taken.
- c. Pay the enhanced license or state ID card fee.

4. How long will it take to get my enhanced driver's license or state ID card?

About two to three weeks after submitting your application.

5. Who has access to the personal information I provide when I apply for an enhanced driver's license or state ID card?

Only select Michigan Secretary of State employees who have passed a background check, law enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials who can access the information during a border crossing.

6. Which Secretary of State offices issue the enhanced license or state ID card?

The following offices issue the enhanced license or state ID card:

Bay County PLUS	Marquette County PLUS
Clinton Township SUPER!Center	Oakland County SUPER!Center
Detroit Area SUPER!Center	St. Clair County PLUS
Flint SUPER!Center	Sault Ste Marie
Grand Rapids SUPER!Center	SE Macomb County PLUS
Grand Traverse County PLUS	SE Oakland County PLUS
Ottawa County PLUS	South Kalamazoo County PLUS
Lansing Area PLUS	Secretary of State Mobile Branch Office
Livonia SUPER!Center	

Once you have obtained your first enhanced license or state ID, you may renew, change your address or request a replacement for one that is lost or stolen at *any* Secretary of State office. You may also convert back to a standard license or ID card at any office. You may also renew by mail if eligible.

However, any transaction requiring changes to your name and date of birth *can only be processed at a Secretary of State office authorized to issue an enhanced license or state ID card.*

The list of offices is also available at www.Michigan.gov/SOS. Please continue to check the department Web site at for new information.

7. What are the fees associated with an enhanced driver's license or state ID card?

First License or ID Card

Enhanced Driver's License	\$45
Enhanced Chauffeur License	\$50
Enhanced State ID Card	\$30
Enhanced State ID Card (Blind or 65+)	\$20

Renewing

Enhanced Driver's License	\$38 (Late renewal - \$45)
Enhanced Chauffeur License	\$43 (Late renewal - \$50)
Enhanced State ID Card	\$30
Enhanced State ID (Blind or 65+)	\$20

Correcting or Replacing

Enhanced Driver's License	\$38
Enhanced Chauffeur License	\$43
Enhanced State ID Card	\$30
Enhanced State ID (Blind or 65+)	\$20

8. Am I required to get an enhanced driver's license or state ID card?

No. They are provided as convenient options to speed up your border crossing when returning to the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean by land or sea. The enhanced cards meet the travel document requirements under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

9. Do I need an enhanced driver's license or state ID card if I am younger than 18?

Beginning June 1, 2009, travelers must present an identity and citizenship document approved under WHTI to gain re-entry into the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the Caribbean. WHTI was enacted to heighten border security against terrorism and illegal entry.

U.S. citizens age 16 or older must present one of the WHTI-approved documents, such as an enhanced license or ID card, passport, passport card or Trusted Traveler card.

U.S. citizens under the age of 16 must present their birth certificate (original or a photocopy) or other proof of U.S. citizenship such as a naturalization certificate or citizenship card.

U.S. citizens ages 16-18 traveling under adult supervision with a school or religious group, social organization or sports team need only present their birth certificate (original or a photocopy) or other proof of citizenship.

10. How is my enhanced driver's license or state ID card used when I cross the border?

Your enhanced license or state ID card has a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip that contains a unique reference number. The unique reference number allows the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials to quickly and accurately verify your identity and citizenship.

When you enter the U.S. at a land or sea port that has an RFID reader, your RFID number will be referenced against a secure database to verify your identity for border-crossing purposes. There is no personally identifying information stored on the RFID chip. The Customs and Border Protection official may also physically inspect your enhanced license or ID, ask for additional information, or perform additional inspections.

Not every port of entry will have an RFID reader. If your port of entry does not use an RFID reader, the Customs and Border Protection official may inspect your enhanced license or ID or use other means to confirm your identity and citizenship.

11. Is the RFID technology safe?

Yes, RFID technology has been used for years in commerce to manage inventory in warehouses and for other everyday applications such as Trusted Traveler cards, toll tags, metro cards building passes. The electromagnetic waves generated by the RFID reader are similar to the waves from a car radio and are harmless. For your convenience, a protective sleeve is mailed with your enhanced license or state ID card.