



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

Enhanced driver licenses and ID cards

Washington is creating enhanced driver licenses and identification cards that can be used as travel documents at U.S. land and sea border crossing stations.

To preserve travel, trade, and cultural ties with British Columbia, Governor Chris Gregoire is proposing an alternative to recent federal legislation requiring people traveling into the U.S. to present a valid passport as proof of identity. The passport requirement for air travel went into effect January 23, 2007. For land and sea crossings, the passport requirement will start June 1, 2009 or sooner. An enhanced license or ID will function like a passport at border crossings. Citizens could, of course, still use U.S. passports at border crossings.



When can I apply for an enhanced license or ID?

DOL will begin issuing them in January 2008. Participation is completely voluntary.

How much will it cost?

The enhanced driver license is expected to cost \$10 to \$15 more than a standard license or ID card.

Where will enhanced licenses and IDs be available?

DOL is planning to offer these special licenses at several locations across the state. These locations have not yet been determined, but every effort will be made to make sure the entire state is well served.

How will it be different from a regular license?

Enhanced licenses and ID cards will have a special icon on the front that indicates the holder is a U.S. citizen. On the back, the license will have text that can be scanned by border agents. The license also will have a [radio frequency identification chip \(RFID\)](#) required by the federal government to facilitate rapid identification checks at border crossings.

What documentation will I need to get one?

To participate in this voluntary program, you must provide proof of U.S. citizenship by presenting a certified copy of your birth certificate or other acceptable documents.



Privacy and personal information

DOL is committed to privacy and protecting personal information. When working with border agents, DOL will only verify information printed on your Washington driver license or ID card that you voluntarily provide to cross the border. This verification will help ensure that your personal information can't be used by someone else at border crossing stations.

The radio frequency identification chip (RFID) embedded in an enhanced license will only transmit an identification number, it will not transmit any personal information.