

Enhanced Driver License and Identification Card

Recent federal legislation requires people traveling into the U.S., by air, to present a valid passport. For land and sea border crossing, the passport requirement will start June 1, 2009. To preserve travel, trade and cultural ties with British Columbia and increase security at the border, the Washington State Department of Licensing will offer an Enhanced Driver License and Identification card (EDL/ID).

The EDL/ID meets federal requirements and best practices for travel documents. It is an approved alternative travel document, to a U.S. Passport, for reentry into the U.S. at land and sea borders between the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

Quick facts

- The EDL/ID became available in January 2008.
- Participation is voluntary.
- The cost is \$15 more than a driver license or ID card.
- You must apply in-person for the EDL/ID, have your photo taken, be interviewed by our staff, and provide documents to prove your U.S. citizenship, identity, and Washington State residence. Go online to www.dol.wa.gov for a list of accepted documents.
- You can apply for the EDL/ID at 14 of our Licensing Service Office locations across the state. Go to www.dol.wa.gov for a list of participating offices.
- The following security enhancements included in the EDL/ID are industry best practices:
 - An icon on the front of the card to indicate that it is an EDL/ID.
 - The back of the card will have a Machine Readable Zone, just like a passport, that can be scanned at the border.
 - Passive vicinity radio frequency identification (RFID) will be embedded in the card. This RFID is required by the federal government to facilitate rapid identification checks at the border.
 - The RFID tag embedded in the EDL/ID will have a unique reference number and will not contain personal information.
 - Data encryption, secure networks, and firewalls will protect the transmission of EDL/ID information.



Minors

Under the final rules for the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) land and sea border crossing requirements, minors under age 16 are exempt from WHTI and will only be required to present a certified birth certificate, or other citizenship document for reentry into the U.S.

If you are 18 years old and your parent or guardian provides proof of your identity, you may use your parent or guardian's address to prove you are a Washington State resident. Your parent or guardian must live in Washington State and have a Washington State driver license or ID card, or present other acceptable documents for proof of residence.

Go to www.dol.wa.gov for a complete list of accepted documents.