

AAMVA Legislative/Regulatory Alert

To: Chief Motor Vehicle Officials
Chief Law Enforcement Officials

FR: Ian Grossman, Vice President of Member Services and Public Affairs

Date: December 6, 2012

RE: DHS to Issue Initial Certification Responses in Coming Week

On December 4th, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided AAMVA an informal update on the status of Real ID. While detailed information was limited due to ongoing leadership discussions, they were able to provide some information on the status of state submissions of certification packages and their intent to respond.

DHS intends to send a letter to all states in the coming week regarding their REAL ID status. States that submitted complete packages and have met all requirements will be notified of such. Those states lacking enough detail for DHS to make a final determination on certification will be advised of where further information is needed. DHS will also be reaching out to those states that have not yet filed anything with the agency. AAMVA continues to urge its member jurisdictions to submit information regarding improvements made in securing driver's license credentials to DHS. Regardless of a state's intention to comply or not comply with Real ID, educating the Secretary on advancements made by individual states to improve the security and integrity of the driver's license is a critical first step to minimizing potential disruptions to travel and other citizen interactions that rely on the driver's license as a primary form of identification.

On October 9th, AAMVA provided the states with templates that can be utilized to convey these improvements to DHS. States are encouraged to use either [the full compliance certification checklist](#) or the more generalized [letter for DHS consideration](#) of driver's license improvements.

Once these notifications have been received, states will have 30 days to respond and provide additional information. DHS said their review during and immediately following this response time would not adversely affect implementation timeframes.

DHS noted that 26 states and territories have not filed any submissions with their agency. 12 states have filed "full responses" and 18 states have submitted letters detailing improvements.

AAMVA alerts its membership to expect responses from DHS in the coming week. If you do not receive a letter directly, note that DHS may route responses to your Governor's office (especially in the case of states who have not filed anything with DHS). Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact AAMVA's Senior Manager of Government Affairs, Cian Cashin at ccashin@aamva.org or [\(703\) 908-8276](tel:7039088276).