



Verifying Lawful Presence

An applicant for a driver license (DL) or identification card (ID) must present proof of lawful presence in the US. The table on the following pages describes the acceptable documents for each type of applicant attempting to verify lawful presence. All documentation must show the applicant’s name and date of birth. The applicant must validate a name change or other inconsistent information through additional documentation such as a marriage license, divorce decree or court order.

The department must verify applicable lawful presence documentation through the US Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program. Verification through SAVE is often instantaneous, but when it is not, receipt of the DL/ID may be delayed for up to 30 days. If SAVE cannot verify on the first attempt, SAVE will permit two additional stages of verification. Each stage may require additional documentation from the applicant. After each stage, the applicant will receive instructions either verbally, by email or by mail on how to proceed with the transaction. To avoid further delay, the applicant should comply with the instructions fully and as soon as possible. If the applicant provides timely responses, the process timeline generally occurs as follows.

Stage	DLD receives response from DHS	DLD response to applicant
First	Within a few seconds	If verified, card issued
Second	10 to 13 business days	Instruction letter** issued within 48 hours after DHS response received by DLD
Third	Up to 25 additional business days after second response received from DHS	Instruction letter** issued within 48 hours after DHS response received by DLD

**If you have provided an email address on your application, an email notification will be sent in addition to the instruction letter.

Temporary Visitor/Limited Term Issuance

An applicant may be issued a limited term DL/ID if he or she is NOT:

- A US citizen;
- A US national;
- A lawful permanent resident;
- A refugee; or
- An asylee.

A limited term DL/ID will expire with the applicant’s lawful presence as determined by DHS.

Commercial Driver Licenses

This guide does not apply to commercial driver licenses. A person who is a US citizen, US national, lawful permanent resident, refugee or asylee may apply for a commercial driver license. All others may apply for a nonresident commercial driver license, if eligible. Refer to <http://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/CommercialLicense.htm> or Chapter 522 of the Transportation Code for application and eligibility requirements.

Category	Acceptable Documents
U.S. Citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Birth certificate issued by the appropriate vital statistics agency of a U.S. State, a U.S. territory, or the District of Columbia indicating birth in U.S. ❖ Department of State Certification of Birth issued to U.S. Citizens born abroad (FS-240, DS-1350, or FS-545) or Consular Report of Birth Abroad ❖ Certificate of U.S. Citizenship ❖ Certificate of Naturalization ❖ U.S. Dept. of Justice – INS U.S. Citizenship Identification Card (I-197 or I-179) ❖ Northern Mariana Card (I-873) ❖ U.S. passport book that does not indicate on the last page that "THE BEARER IS A UNITED STATES NATIONAL AND NOT A UNITED STATES CITIZEN" ❖ U.S. passport card
U.S. National	U.S. passport book that indicates on the last page that "THE BEARER IS A UNITED STATES NATIONAL AND NOT A UNITED STATES CITIZEN"
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas ("KIC") (U.S. citizen)	American Indian Card (form I-872) which indicates "KIC"
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas ("KIP") (non-U.S. citizen)	American Indian Card (form I-872) which indicates "KIP"
American Indian born in Canada (First Nations)	An applicant may refer to the Jay Treaty, 8 U.S.C. § 1359, or 8 C.F.R. § 289.2 and may present a variety of documents. Issuance cannot occur without approval of the documents by Austin headquarters. DLD Personnel: make copies of documentation and seek approval through the chain of command.
Lawful Permanent Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Permanent Resident Card (I-551) ❖ Resident Alien Card (I-551) – card issued without expiration date ❖ Valid Immigrant Visa (with admit stamp) and unexpired foreign passport ❖ Unexpired foreign passport stamped with temporary I-551 language (admit stamp), "Approved I-551," or "Processed for I-551" ❖ I-94 stamped with temporary I-551 language (admit stamp), "Approved I-551," or "Processed for I-551" ❖ Re-entry Permit I-327 <p>Note: I-151, the predecessor to I-551, is not acceptable as proof of permanent resident status.</p>
Immigrant Visa with Temporary I-551 language	A valid Immigrant Visa within one year of endorsement (i.e. stamped by Customs and Border Protection – admit stamp) and an unexpired passport
Conditional entrants	<p>Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number indicating this status, which can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I-94 or other document showing admission under Section 203(a)(7), "refugee conditional entry" ❖ I-688B coded 274a.12(a)(3) ❖ I-766 with category A3 or A03

Category	Acceptable Documents
Asylee	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number indicating this status, which can include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I-94 with annotation "Section 208" or "asylee" ❖ Unexpired foreign passport with annotation "Section 208" or "asylee" ❖ I-571 Refugee Travel Document ❖ I-688B coded 274a.12(a)(5) ❖ I-766 with category A5 or A05
Refugee	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number indicating this status, which can include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I-94 with annotation "Section 207" or "refugee" ❖ Unexpired foreign passport with annotation "Section 207" or "refugee" ❖ I-571 Refugee Travel Document ❖ I-688B coded 274a.12(a)(3) ❖ I-766 with category A3 or A03
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number indicating this status or Employment Authorization Document (EAD) (I-766) with category A12 or C19
Applicant with Employment Authorization Document	Employment Authorization Document (EAD)(I-766)
Applicants for adjustment of status Note: These are individuals applying to become lawful permanent residents.	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number This can include but is not limited to a form I-797 indicating pending I-485 or pending application for adjustment of status.
Applicants for extension of status, change of status, petition for non-immigrant worker, with a pending I-918 application, or other pending category.	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number This can include but is not limited to a form I-797 indicating a pending application for an extension of status, change of status, petition for non-immigrant worker, or other pending category.
Citizens of the Republic of Palau	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 with annotation "CFA/PAL" or other annotation indicating the Compact of Free Association/Palau OR Employment Authorization Document (EAD)(I-766) with category A8 or A08
Citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 with annotation "CFA/RMI" or other annotation indicating the Compact of Free Association/Republic of Marshall Islands OR Employment Authorization Document (EAD)(I-766) with category A8 or A08

Category	Acceptable Documents
Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 with annotation "CFA/FSM" or other annotation indicating the Compact of Free Association/Federated States of Micronesia OR Employment Authorization Document (EAD)(I-766) with category A8 or A08
Cuban/Haitian entrants	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number This can include but is not limited to an I-94 with annotation "Cuban/Haitian entrant"
Lawful temporary residents	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
Self-petitioning abused spouses or children, parents of abused children, or children of abused spouses (Applicants with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) petitions)	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number This can include but is not limited to I-797 indicating approved, pending, or prima facie determination of I-360 or an approved or pending I-360 or an I-766 with category C31.
Parolees	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number This can include but is not limited to an I-94 with annotation "parole" or "paroled pursuant to Section 212(d)(5)."
Person granted deferred action	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
Persons granted deferred enforcement departure (DED)	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number or Employment Authorization Document (EAD) (I-766) with category A11 Note: Individuals in this status may have been granted an extension to the period of authorized stay that is not reflected on the current EAD. Notifications regarding any extensions to this category will be distributed by Austin headquarters.
Person granted family unity	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
Persons under an order of supervision	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
Persons granted extended or voluntary departure	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number

Category	Acceptable Documents
Persons granted withholding of deportation or removal	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number This can include but is not limited to an I-94 or passport with annotation "Section 243(h)" or a letter or order from USCIS or court granting withholding of deportation or removal.
Persons in removal or deportation proceedings	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
Persons granted a stay of deportation	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
Persons granted voluntary departure	Immigration documentation with an alien number or I-94 number
A-1, A-2, and A-3	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 Note: Issuance cannot occur unless applicant presents a letter from U.S. Department of State with original signature <u>indicating ineligibility for Department of State issued driver license or requesting issuance of a state issued identification card.</u>
B1/B2 Visa/BCC with I-94 (Border Crosser Card , DSP-150, or "laser visa")	All of the following: ♦ Unexpired foreign passport, ♦ Visa (border crosser card), and ♦ I -94 Note: Applicant must have an I-94 to be eligible because of the time and distance from the border restrictions for applicants who do not obtain an I-94.
B-1, B-2, C-1, C-3, D-1, and D-2	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 Note: The applicant may not be able meet residency/domicile requirements.
C-2 Alien in transit to U.N. Headquarters district. Travel limited to 25 miles radius of Columbus Circle in New York, NY	This status is restricted to New York, NY and not eligible for a Texas driver license under the domicile/residency requirements.
E-1, E-2, and E-3	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
E-2 CNMI Treaty-investor and dependents in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	This status is limited to persons entering the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and is not eligible for a Texas driver license (8 CFR § 214.2(3)(23)).
F-1 Foreign academic student	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 or I-20

Category	Acceptable Documents
F-2 Dependent on F-1	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
F-3 Commuter Student from Canada or Mexico	This status is for commuters from Mexico or Canada and is not eligible for a Texas driver license under the domicile/residency requirements.
G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, and G-5	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 Note: Issuance cannot occur unless applicant presents a letter from US Department of State approving the issuance of a DL/ID.
H-1B, H-1B1, H-1C, H-2A, H-2B, H-2R, H-3, H-4, and I	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
J-1 Exchange visitor (may be student, trainee, work/travel, au pair, etc.)	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 or DS-2019
J-2 Dependent of J-1 exchange visitor	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, L-1, L-1A, L-1B, and L-2,	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
M-1 Non-academic student	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94 or I-20
M-2 Dependents of non-academic students	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
M-3 Commuter Student from Canada or Mexico	This status is for commuters from Mexico or Canada and is not eligible for a Texas driver license under the domicile/residency requirements.
N-1 through N-7 (NATO) North American Treaty Organization Representatives and dependents	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94
N-8, N-9, O-1, O-2, O-3, P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4, Q-1, Q-2, Q-3, R-1, R-2, S-5, S-6, S-7, T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, T-5, TN-1, TN-2, TD, U-1, U-2, U-3, U-4, U-5, V-1, V-2, and V-3	Unexpired foreign passport or I -94

Category	Acceptable Documents
WB* Visitor for business (visa waiver program)	Unexpired foreign passport with admission stamp annotated "WT/WB" or I -94 Note: The applicant may not be able meet residency/domicile requirements.
WT* Visitor for pleasure (tourist in visa waiver program)	Unexpired foreign passport with admission stamp annotated "WT/WB" or I -94 Note: The applicant may not be able meet residency/domicile requirements.

*Visa waiver program countries: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.