Previous DL and ID card design (still valid)

Adult license

Under 21 license

Adult ID

Identification card

Adult ID card

Veteran DL and ID card design

Instruction permit

Adult permit

Under 21 permit

Adult and under 21 temporary document on preprinted security paper

Mailing information on perforated attachment may or may not be retained by the customer with temporary document.

Adult and under 21 license shown with features list

- Common back of card (adult and minor)
- Laser-engraved ghost
- Laser-engraved tactile date of birth
- Iowa DOT director’s signature
- REAL ID-compliant symbol
- Veteran’s designation
- Limited-term marking

- All DL and ID cards have a ghost image.
- The portrait has an issuing office number and the Iowa DOT director’s signature overlapping its edge.
- The 2-D barcode on the back contains all of the data from the front of the DL/ID.
- The front laminate contains an "optically-variable" image of the State of Iowa’s Capital dome that changes color as one tilts the license for viewing.
- When appropriate, text will appear on the front to indicate organ donor, hearing impaired or deaf, medical alert or medical advance directive.
- The REAL ID-compliant DL and ID cards will have a verification mark printed on the face of the card. The verification mark is a gold star cut-out.
- The veteran’s designation appears in red on the face of the card. Not every veteran will have an Iowa DL or ID card with this designation.
- "Limited-term" marking is printed at the top center of all DL and ID cards issued to persons who are temporary foreign nationals.
New versions of Iowa driver’s license (DL) and identification (ID) cards

The REAL ID symbol indicates the card was issued in compliance with the REAL ID Act of 2005. Congress passed the REAL ID Act after the 9/11 attacks to improve national security.

The REAL ID Act promotes security in the issuance of DL and ID cards by requiring states to meet certain physical and procedural security standards for production and issuance of DL and ID cards, as well as certain documentation standards, including authentication and verification standards for proof of identity, date of birth, Social Security number, residence, and lawful status or presence.

The REAL ID-compliant symbol indicates the DL or ID card was issued in compliance with these federal requirements.

Not all Iowa DL and ID cards issued on or after Jan. 15, 2013, will have this symbol. New applicants successfully obtaining an Iowa DL or ID card issued on or after this date will automatically be issued a DL or ID card with this symbol. However, people that obtained an Iowa DL or ID card before Jan. 15, 2013, will not have this symbol on their card until they renew their DL or ID card, and at that time they can choose to resubmit their identity documents and obtain a DL or ID card with the REAL ID-compliant symbol or continue with the standard Iowa DL or ID card without the symbol.

An Iowa DL or ID card without a REAL ID-compliant symbol remains valid for all identification purposes and, as applicable, all driving purposes and privileges normally associated with the card in the form issued. The symbol is only for use by federal authorities in determining whether a person should be admitted entrance to commercial aircraft, federal facilities requiring identification for entry and nuclear power plants. (The earliest federal authorities may begin requiring cards marked with this symbol is Dec. 1, 2014.) Unless you are responsible for determining access for these federal purposes (according to the official guidance or policy of your agency or facility), you should not deny a person access, service or privilege merely because their Iowa DL or ID does not include this symbol. This includes the sale of alcohol or tobacco products, purchase of guns; admission to a bar, casino or other place where minors are prohibited; issuance of insurance; or admission to school or a medical facility.

Limited-term marking

Beginning Jan. 15, 2013, all DL and ID cards issued to persons who are temporary foreign nationals will include a marking at the top center that reads "LIMITED-TERM." An Iowa DL or ID card marked as "limited-term" remains valid for all identification purposes. You should not deny a person access, service or privilege merely because their Iowa DL or ID includes this marking.

Veteran’s designation

A "Veteran" indication shows the cardholder is a U.S. armed forces veteran. Veterans obtaining new or renewed DL or ID cards on or after Jan. 15, 2013, can elect to include the designation on their DL or ID card with Iowa’s Department of Veteran Affairs’ approval. Not every veteran will have an Iowa DL or ID with this designation printed on it.

Central issuance of DL and ID cards

The Iowa DOT processes cards using a central issuance system. Iowans will receive their license issuance site with a temporary document, valid for 30 days. Their card is received in the mail.

To report identification fraud contact:

Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement at 866-908-4636 or email omvee@dot.iowa.gov.

Current DL and ID card design

Header color designates type of document

For more information contact:

Office of Driver Services
P.O. Box 9204
Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9204
800-532-1121 (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
Email: ods@dot.iowa.gov
www.iowadot.gov/mdv/ods

Visit myMVD at mymvd.iowadot.gov to:

- Change your mailing address.
- Purchase your driving record or view it for free.
- Establish a DUJD renewal reminder.
- Self-certify your driving type and provide your Medical Examiner’s Certificate (CDL holders).
- View your reinstatement requirements if your driver’s license is suspended or revoked.

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-653-4454 or Iowa Department of Transportation's Affirmative Action officer at 515-715-6335 or email affirmative.action@iowa.gov.