



South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

Lawfully Present Non-US Citizens' Checklist

MV-94
(Rev.06/2026)

You must choose whether you want to get a REAL ID or not. A REAL ID card will have a star on it with "LIMITED TERM" printed across the front and can be used to board airplanes or enter secure federal facilities. Without a REAL ID, you must have another federally approved form of identification, such as a valid US Passport or military ID, and show it to pass security at airports nationwide or enter secure federal facilities. You do **not** need a REAL ID beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card to do **any** of the following: drive, vote, access hospital care, enter non-secured federal facilities such as a post office, receive federal benefits for which you're entitled (Social Security Administration, Veterans Affairs), or participate in law enforcement investigations or proceedings. Regardless of what choice you make the cost of a South Carolina REAL ID is the **same** as a beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card that is **not** a REAL ID.

These requirements are for someone who is applying for an SC beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card (ID). Please use this checklist as a reference.

- **Driver's License:** If you are applying for a license, you must complete these steps.
 - A. Surrender any beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card issued by another state in the US. If a non-commercial card was lost or stolen, you must provide a certified copy of your driving record from the state that issued the beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card. However, a CDL holder must get a replacement license from his state of record and surrender it to SC. If you have a beginner's permit or driver's license issued by another country, it may need to be shown (not surrendered) as proof of prior driving experience.
 - B. You must provide the name and information of your automobile liability insurance company that is licensed to do business in SC (not required for a beginner's permit or identification card). This information is subject to electronic verification. SC Code §56-1-80(C).
 - C. You must provide your **social security number (SSN)** which will be electronically verified with the Social Security Administration (SSA), or a letter from SSA stating you were denied an SSN. **The SSN, date of birth, and name on your application must match the SSA file.** 6 CFR §37.11(e); SC Code §56-1-90.
 - D. Provide **original** (not photocopied) documents for each of the categories listed on this document unless otherwise stated. This list is subject to change at the SCDMV's discretion.
 - E. Pass a vision test. SC Code §56-1-130(A).
 - F. Pass a knowledge and skills test unless you have a valid driving credential issued by a country that has established reciprocity with South Carolina (SC), or a valid driving credential from another US state. This is a requirement when a driver's license is issued for the first-time and when renewing a license that has been expired over nine months.
- The SCDMV will not issue a license to a lawfully present non-US citizen for less than one year or more than eight years. You will be granted a one-year extension of your driver's license if you change status while in the US, are pending a change of status, or request a visa extension in status. You must provide all original entry documents, (even if expired) in addition to documentation from US immigration authorities authorizing current presence in the US for the specific visa status.
- **Beginner's Permit:** If you are applying for a beginner's permit, you must complete steps A, C, D and E above and pass a knowledge test. *Steps B, C, and E must be completed when you are ready to take the skills test to upgrade from a beginner's permit to a driver's license.*
- **Identification Card:** If you are applying for an ID, you must complete steps A, C, and D above.
- **Commercial Learner's Permit/Commercial Driver's Licenses:** Are only issued to US Citizens or lawful permanent residents (Green Card holders).

You must provide the following **original** documents unless otherwise stated. All documents are subject to verification. Documents not in English must be translated by either a qualified, or certified translator on the Translation Document (Form 4030). Qualified translators must provide a letter of verification on employer letterhead qualifying them as a translator. Certified translators can present their ATA certificate.

- ☐ 1. Proof of SC address (see below) required when applying for a beginner's permit, driver's license, or ID for the first time, upgrading your card (such as an ID to a beginner's permit or a beginner's permit to a license), or when renewing a license, beginner's permit, or ID that is expired over nine months. 6 CFR §37.11(f); SC Code §§56-1-40(7), -80(3).

Documents used for proof of SC address cannot be more than 9 months old from the date that the document was issued.

- ☐ 2. Proof of identity, date and place of birth, and authorized length of stay in the US (see specific requirements below). 6 CFR §37.11(c), (d), (g); SC Code §56-1-40(7), -80, -90.
- ☐ 3. Legal documents supporting name change(s), if applicable (see specific requirements below). 6 CFR §37.11(c)

1. Proof of SC Address must show your name and current SC address of residence (not PO Box).
Proof of address is not required when renewing a driver's license, beginner's permit, or identification card that has not been expired over nine months. Below are two options you have based on the number of proof of address documents you provide.

- **Two proofs of address** are required if you are interested in getting a REAL ID beginner's permit, driver's license, or identification card. You **MUST** provide two items from the categories listed below and each item should be from a different organization. Both proofs of address **must** show the **same** address.
- **Only one proof of address** is required if you prefer to have a permit, license, or ID that has **"NOT FOR FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION"** printed across the front of it. This is not a REAL ID.

If you present any of the following items, it cannot be more than 9 months old from the date the document was issued.

- a) **SC beginner's permit, driver's license, ID, or vehicle registration:** must show your current residential address or your updated address must be on file within the SCDMV's system if it is not reflected on your card.
- b) **SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP); Fishing/hunting licenses or boat/jet ski registrations** (Department of Natural Resources products).
- c) **County tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home.**
- d) **State or Federal tax records:** Income tax returns are acceptable including electronic tax file, Form W-2, or Form 1095-B Health [insurance] Coverage. You must be listed as a primary taxpayer or dependent.
- e) **School records** must be from an SC school, college, or university unless otherwise noted
 - Report card (must show your name and current SC address)
 - Letter or contract from SC Home Schooling Association.
 - Official letter from your SC school or school district on school or district letterhead (must indicate enrollment period).
 - Transcript (SC school, college or university).
 - Out-of-state or in-state tuition bill or receipt of student loan with your SC physical address.
 - Letter from an out-of-state boarding school or a professional career development institute: must indicate that you live in SC and attend school out-of-state.
- f) **Social security check or annual statement.**
- g) **Current lease agreement for an apartment, house, or car.**
- h) **Utility bill, payment receipt, or approved application for services at your current SC residence** (mailed to your SC address, not an out-of-state address): may be a water, sewer, gas and electricity, cable/satellite TV, internet, cell phone or telephone bill.

i) **Financial statements: credit card or bank statement or signed letter on bank letterhead:** must also show your name and SC physical address as the account holder.

j) **Home mortgage monthly statement or deed.**

k) **Insurance documentation from a company licensed to do business in SC:**

- Automobile or life insurance bill or payment receipt (cards are **not** accepted).
- Health insurance statement, payment receipt, explanation of benefits (cards are **not** accepted).
- Homeowner's insurance policy, payment receipt, or bill.
- Renter's insurance policy, payment receipt, or bill is acceptable in conjunction with another document confirming the address on the renter's insurance document.

l) **Current letter of employment or payroll stub/statement.**

m) **US Postal Service letter or item delivered by the US Post Office:**

- Change of address confirmation letter or postmarked US mail with forwarding address label must contain your first and last name, state, and zip code.
- Any postmarked mail showing your name and delivered by the US Post Office to your current address such as: personal letters, or magazines.

n) **Parolee letter from parole officer.**

o) **Letter from director of SC social welfare institution** (such as a homeless shelter, battered women's shelter, halfway house, group home, or orphanage): must state you are a resident of the facility.

p) **Other documents issued by federal/state/municipal government.**

2. Proof of Identity, Date and Place of Birth, and Authorized Length of Stay in the United States —

You must provide the applicable documents listed here if you are applying for a first-time card (beginner's permit, driver's license, or ID), card renewal, or a name change.

CITIZEN from a Freely Associated States (FAS): Micronesia, Marshall Island, or Palau

- a) Employment Authorization Document (EAD); or
- b) Unexpired FAS passport and an I-94 document. No visa is required.

IMMIGRANT: You must renew or replace your beginner's permit, driver's license, or ID in person at a designated SCDMV branch.

☐ **Permanent Resident Alien** (foreign national):

- a) Unexpired Form I-551 or valid passport stamped "I-551 approved" or "processed for I-551".
- b) You must also provide proof of place of birth, if not displayed on permanent resident card.
- c) I-551 must display fingerprint for anyone who is 14 years of age or older.

NON-IMMIGRANT

☐ **Refugee** – Must present one of the following documents:

- a) I-94 stamped "refugee"; or
- b) Unexpired Employment Authorization Card I-766.

☐ **Asylee:**

Must provide an unexpired Employment Authorization Card I-766 or all of these documents:

- a) I-94 stamped "Asylee".
- b) Unexpired passport.
- c) If you do not have a social security number, letter from the Social Security Administration stating that you were denied an SSN.

☐ **Other:** non-immigrant granted temporary entry into the US must provide an unexpired Employment Authorization Card I-766 or both of these documents:

- a) Passport with unexpired visa.
- b) I-94.

AUTHORIZED LENGTH OF STAY - In addition to the above documents you must provide an additional document authorizing your current stay for the specific visa status you were granted. If your visa allows you to work or attend school in the US, you must provide written verification from your employer or school on letterhead showing that you are currently employed or enrolled in good standing. The appropriate authority must sign the letter. If your visa is expired, regardless of if you have an I-797, you are not eligible for a REAL ID. I-797s are only accepted at the discretion of the SCDMV.

Form I-797 will not be accepted if it has been expired for more than 12 months (1 year).

What is your visa status?	You must provide this document based on your visa status
B1 or B2	Valid and paid SC real estate (home only) property tax receipt
E1 or E2, H1 or H2, L1 or L2	Letter of employment (cannot be more than one year old)
F1 or F2	Form I-20
J1 or J2	Form DS-2019 or IAP-66
K1 or K2	Marriage License/Certificate and Form I-797 Notice of Action (must show that you applied for permanent status)
TN or TD	Letter of Employment (cannot be more than one year old)

3. Documents Supporting Name Change(s)

If your name has changed since birth, you must present the document(s) (such as: adoption records, copy of marriage certificate or license issued by state/county records office, and/or court ordered name change) supporting all name change(s) from the name which appears on your immigration document to the present. Your new name must appear on your current valid US issued immigration document (EAD, I-797 Notice of Action, permanent resident card) as it will appear on your SC beginner's permit, driver's license, or ID.



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SCDMV Branch Offices Offering Lawfully Present Non-US Citizen Services

Beaufort

28 Munch Drive
Beaufort, SC 29906
843-379-8822

Bennettsville

337 Highway 9 West
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-479-0785

Bishopville

508 South Lee Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
803-484-4573

Bluffton

15 Sheridan Park
Bluffton, SC
843-815-6981

Charleston—Leeds

3790 Leeds Ave
North Charleston, SC 29405
843-740-6168

Charleston—Orleans

946 Orleans Road
Charleston, SC 29407
843-852-2636

Chester

508 Belt Road
Chester, SC 29706
813-385-6082

Columbia—Shop Road

1630 Shop Road
Columbia, SC 20201
803-737-8350

Conway

4103 Highway 701 North
Conway, SC 29526
843-365-4781

Dillon

1705 Highway 301 South
Dillon, SC 29536
846-774-4712

Florence

3102 E Palmetto Street
Florence, SC 29506
843-3174-4007

Gaffney

451 Hyatt Sreet
Gaffney, SC 29341
864-488-1386

Greenville—Saluda Dam

15 Saluda Dam Road
Greenville, SC 29611
864-241-1147

Greenwood

510 West Alexander Extension
Greenwood, SC 29646
864-227-6434

Greer

610 Arlington Road
Greer, SC 29651
864-801-9375

Irmo—Ballentine

1016 Broad Stone Road
Irmo, SC 29063
803-749-9041

Kingstree

785 Eastland Avenue
Kingstree, SC 29556
843-354-9217

Ladson

135 Wimberly Drive
Ladson, SC 29456
843-572-7854

Lancaster

1694 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29360
803-286-4859

Laurens

390 Fairgrounds Road
Laurens, SC 29360
864-682-3213

Marion

2757 East Highway 76
Mullins, SC 29574
843-431-1148

Myrtle Beach

1200 21st Avenue North
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
843-448-9957

Myrtle Beach Commons

1330 Howard Parkway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
843-839-8003

North Augusta

1711 Ascauga Lake Road
North Augusta, SC 29841
803-279-6659

North Myrtle Beach

107 Highway 57 North
Little River, SC 29566
(843)-399-5567

Orangeburg

1720 Charleston Highway
Orangeburg, SC 29115
803-531-6866

Rock Hill

305 Hands Mill Road
Rock Hill, SC 29732
803-329-6332

Seneca

13009 South Radio Station Road
Seneca, SC 29678
864-882-8698

Spartanburg—Southport

1625 Southport Road
Spartanburg, SC 29306
864-594-4940

Sumter

430 South Pike Street
Sumter, SC 29150
803-775-8559