



# South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles International Customers' Checklist

MV-94  
(Rev. 12/19)

**You must choose whether you want to get a REAL ID or not.** A REAL ID card will have a gold star on it and can be used to board airplanes or enter secure federal facilities. Without a REAL ID, you must have another federally approved 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, license, or ID that is not a REAL ID.

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

**A. Driver's License:** If you are applying for a license you must complete these steps.

- 1) Surrender any driver's license, beginner's permit, or identification card issued by another state in the US. If a non-commercial license or ID was lost or stolen, you must provide a certified copy of your driving record from the state that issued the license, beginner's permit 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 driver's license or beginner's permit issued by another country, it may need to be shown (not surrendered) as proof of prior driving experience.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Pass a vision test if applying for a first-time card.
- 4) Pass a knowledge and skills test unless you have a valid driving credential issued by a country that has established reciprocity with South Carolina. 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 an international customer for less than one year or more than five 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.

**B. Beginner's Permit:** If you are applying for a beginner's permit, you must complete steps 1, 2 and 3 above and pass a knowledge test. Steps 2 and 3 must be repeated when you are ready to take the skills test to upgrade from a beginner's permit to a driver's license.

**C. Identification Card:** If you are applying for an ID, you must complete steps 1 and 2 above.

You must provide the following **original** documents unless otherwise stated. All documents are subject to verification. Documents not in English must be translated by a qualified translator on the Translation Document (SCDMV form 4030). The translator must provide a letter of verification from his employer on letterhead qualifying him as a translator.

- 1. Proof of SC address (see below) required when applying for a license, beginner's permit, or ID for the first time; upgrading your credential 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 Section 37.11(f); SC Code Sections 56-1-40(7), -80(3).
- 2. Proof of social security number or a letter from Social Security Administration stating you are not allowed to work in the US. 6 CFR Section 37.11(e); SC Code Section 56-1-90.
- 3. Proof of identity, date and place of birth, and authorized length of stay in the US (see specific requirements below). 6 CFR Section 37.11(c), (d), (g); SC Code Sections 56-1-40(7), -80, -90.
- 4. Legal documents supporting name change(s), if applicable (see specific requirements below). 6 CFR Section 37.11(c)
- 5. Automobile liability insurance information (not required for a beginner's permit or ID) from insurance company licensed to do business in SC. SC Code Section 56-1-80(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.

- a) **Unexpired 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 credential.
- b) **Unexpired SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP); Fishing/hunting licenses or boat/jet ski registrations** (Department of Natural Resources products).
- c) **Voter registration card; County tax bill or property tax receipt for your vehicle or home** (current or preceding calendar year). Must be mailed to your SC address.
- d) **State or Federal tax records** Income tax returns for current or prior year are acceptable including electronic tax file, Form W-2, or Form 1095-B Health [insurance] Coverage. You must be listed as a primary tax payer or dependent.
- e) **School records** must be from an SC school, college or university unless otherwise noted (current or prior school year)
  - 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.**

**If presenting one of the following items, it cannot be more than 90 DAYS OLD**

- g) **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.
- h) **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.
- i) **Home mortgage monthly statement or deed.**
- j) **Insurance documentation from a company licensed to do business in SC:**
  - Automobile or life insurance bill or payment receipt (cards or policies are not accepted).
  - Health insurance statement, payment receipt, explanation of benefits (cards or policies are not accepted).
  - Homeowner's insurance policy, payment receipt, or bill.
- k) **Current letter of employment or payroll stub/statement from an SC or out-of-state employer.**
- l) **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 (not advertisements).
- m) **Parolee letter from parole officer.**
- n) **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.
- o) **Other documents issued by federal/state/municipal government.**

**2. Proof of Social Security Number (SSN) -** You must present a social security card or non-work authorized status from the Social Security Administration. Replace a lost or stolen social security card online <https://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/>

**3. 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 driver's license, beginner's permit, or ID; renewal; or a name change.

**CITIZEN from a Freely Associated State (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 driver's license, beginner's permit, 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.
  - d) Social security card.

**NON-IMMIGRANT**

- Refugee** - Must present a social security card and one of the following documents:
  - a) I-94 stamped "refugee"; or
  - Unexpired Employment Authorization Card I-766.

**Asylee:**

- a) I-94 stamped "Asylee".
  - b) Unexpired passport.
  - c) Social security card or letter from the Social Security Administration stating you are not allowed to work in the US. *This letter cannot be used as proof of address.*
- OR**
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Card I-766.
  - Social security card.

**Other non-immigrant granted temporary entry into the US must provide the following documents:**

- a) Passport with unexpired visa.
  - b) I-94.
  - c) Social security card or letter from the Social Security Administration stating you are not allowed to work in the US. *This letter cannot be used as proof of address.*
- OR**
- Unexpired Employment Authorization Card I-766.
  - Social security card.

**AUTHORIZED LENGTH OF STAY -** In addition to the above documents that are required of all immigrants, you must provide an additional document authorizing your current stay for the specific visa status you were granted. Listed below are the most common visa statuses. If your visa allows you to work or attend school in the US, you must provide written verification from your employer or school on company letterhead showing that you are currently employed or enrolled in good standing. The appropriate designated authority must sign the letter.

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
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

**4. Legal Documents Supporting Name Change(s)**

If your name has changed since birth, you must present the legal document(s) (such as: adoption records, copy of marriage certificate or license issued by state/county records office, certificate of naturalization, and 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 driver's license, beginner's permit, or ID. You have one opportunity at the time of marriage to change your middle and/or last name. You may not change your name again to a different variation of the married name without a court order.

**5. Automobile Liability Insurance Information** from a company licensed to do business in SC if you are applying for a driver's license.