

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
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December 21, 2018

Mr. Steve Yonkers
Director of the REAL ID Program
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW, MS 0445
Washington, DC 20528-0445

Dear Mr. Yonkers:

I write in response to Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Neumann's letter, dated November 21, 2018, regarding California's REAL ID compliance request. As you know, California submitted its final compliance package to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on February 22, 2018. Over the past nine months, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (CADMV) has responded to several DHS inquiries and provided supplemental information to support a determination that California is compliant with the REAL ID Act. The purpose of this letter is to respond to DHS's latest inquiry regarding CADMV's compliance with §37.11(f) of the REAL ID Act pertaining to residency document requirements.

One of CADMV's final activities to begin offering REAL ID cards on January 22, 2018, was pursuing regulations to require applicants to submit appropriate documents. For proof of residency, CADMV reviewed the regulation and procedure adopted by Wisconsin (a state currently determined to be in compliance with the REAL ID Act by DHS) where applicants provide one residency document and the United States mail return service process serves as the second residency document. In that process, Wisconsin, like CADMV, mails driver's licenses (DL) and identification (ID) cards to the address provided on the DL/ID card application, with a return service requested. If the applicant is not recognized as an inhabitant or is no longer at that address, the mail is not forwarded to another address and is returned to the sender.

The CADMV determined that this approach would be less burdensome on all applicants and consulted with DHS on whether California could mirror Wisconsin and implement a similar procedure. On June 6, 2017, DHS informed CADMV via email that the practice of mailing DL/ID cards with return service requested as the second proof of residency would be acceptable, and we began using this method upon REAL ID implementation starting in January, 2018. To date, 2,300,000 REAL ID DL/ID cards have been issued.

On November 21, 2018, CADMV received a letter from DHS providing new direction that the residency process described above does not comply with §37.11(f) of the REAL ID Act. In order to proceed with the review of California's compliance certification, DHS requested a corrective action plan that identifies California's timeline for implementing a revised residency document

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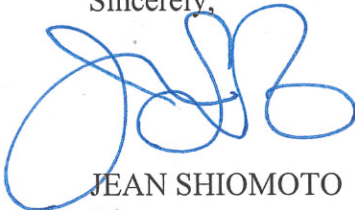
process, where customers will be required to submit a second proof of residency to obtain a REAL ID DL/ID card.

Due to the programming efforts necessary at the department to implement this change, the CADMV will begin requiring customers coming in for a new REAL ID DL/ID card to provide two proofs of residency starting in April, 2019.

As stated above, since CADMV began issuing REAL ID DL/ID cards, more than 2,300,000 cards have been issued. Pursuant to new direction, the CADMV starting in spring 2019, will begin collecting a second residency document from customers already in possession of a REAL ID card and at the time of their next renewal and give customers the option of submitting their second form of residency via mail, online, or at a field office. This process was discussed with DHS on November 28, 2018 and we understand this approach is acceptable to DHS. The types of documents that will be collected as the second proof of residency document are already identified on the list of acceptable residency documents that was previously adopted via state regulations and is currently in use. This list includes, among other items, a state-issued document such as the renewal notice that is sent to the individual's residency address. In order to minimize confusion among our customers, the CADMV will work to inform individuals who have been issued a REAL ID under the current process that their card will be accepted for official federal purposes, even if their renewal occurs after the October 1, 2020, final enforcement date for REAL ID.

With California's current REAL ID extension ending on January 10, 2019, we hope that this information will assist DHS in completing California's compliance determination. For additional information or questions, please contact Deputy Director of Licensing Wesley Goo at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



JEAN SHIOMOTO
Director