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VA Card Types and Requirements

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The PIV Card is issued to VA Applicants who require unsupervised, full-time, logical and/or physical access for a continuous period more than six months. In accordance with [OMB Directive M-05-24](#), the physical access requirement includes VA or other federally owned or leased space, whether for single or multi-tenant occupancy, and its grounds and approaches, all or any portion of which is under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the VA or other Federal agency.

In addition, [FIPS 201](#), along with [OPM regulations](#) (Title 5 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts [731](#) and [732](#)), and [Executive Order 10450](#), Security Requirements for Government Employment, provide that all federally employed personnel are subject to a background investigation. According to FIPS 201, the minimum requirement to be issued a PIV badge is a successfully adjudicated Special Agreement Check (SAC) and an initiated National Agency Check with Written Inquiries (NACI).

The determining factor as to the type of card issued is an examination of an Applicant's access requirements. Factors to consider are the duration of access and access to sensitive data, information systems, and restricted areas. The card type issued is decided independent of VA employment position (Employee, contractor, or affiliate) or job description. It is ultimately the responsibility of the employee's supervisor along with an officially certified PIV Sponsor to determine the appropriate card types.

There are individuals in the VA organization that will not qualify for the PIV card and will therefore be issued a Non-PIV card. Non-PIV Card Holders typically are employed for a period of 180 consecutive or aggregate days or less in a 365 day period, over a 3 year span. Non-PIV Card will have a physical topography that is visually distinguishable from the PIV card.

While FIPS 201 does not mandate that Non-PIV Cards or Flash Badges have an expiration date, VA has determined that in some cases, some Non-PIV Card or Flash Badge holders may eventually be subject to HSPD-12 standards and as such will be required to obtain a PIV Card. The term length of three years for Non-PIV Cards and one year for Flash Badges will reduce the frequency for re-issuance of credentials for permanent Non-PIV Cards and Flash Badges and should also provide sufficient time for applicant's to be cleared and thus obtain a PIV Card when required.

One variation of a Non-PIV card is the Flash Badge. The Flash Badge allows only common physical access to VA grounds and facilities. The Flash Badge requires the Applicant to present only one





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issued photo ID and does not require a SAC/NACI or higher level background investigation. The Flash Badge will appear topographically different from both the PIV and Non-PIV cards described above. The Flash Badge may be issued with an expiration date of up to one year. Issuance of a Flash Badge without a photo ID is optional at the discretion of the PCI Manager.

The following table is a matrix that depicts access and processing requirements for PIV, Non-PIV and Flash Badge card types:

Table 1: Card Access and Process Requirements

PIV Card Access Requirements				PIV Card Processing Requirements			
More than 6 months or more than 180 aggregate days in a one year period							
Logical Access	Sensitive Records Access	Restricted Physical Access	Common Physical Access	NACI Initiation (or higher BI) Required	SAC Required	Number of IDs Required	VA E-mail Required
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	No
Non-PIV Card Access Requirements*				Non-PIV Card Processing Requirements			
180 consecutive or aggregate days in a one year period, over a 3 year period							
Logical Access	Sensitive Records Access	Restricted Physical Access	Common Physical Access	NACI Initiation (or higher BI) Required	SAC Required	Number of IDs Required	VA E-mail Required
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	2	Yes
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	2	No
Flash Badge Access Requirements*				Flash Badge Processing Requirements			
180 consecutive or aggregate days in a one year period							
Logical Access	Sensitive Records Access	Restricted Physical Access	Common Physical Access	NACI Initiation (or higher BI) Required	SAC Required	Number of IDs Required	VA E-mail Required
			Yes	No	No	1; PCI Manager can waive required ID	No





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- * Non-PIV Card and Flash Badge holders who become subject to HSPD-12 requirements during the 3 year term of the Non-PIV Card and the 1 year term of the Flash Badge will be required to obtain a PIV Card.





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The following information describes the criteria for Applicants (employee, contractor, or affiliate) who will receive a PIV card, a Non-PIV card, or a Flash Badge. The criteria are based on the card Applicant's access requirements for physical and/or logical VA resources, as determined by the Applicant's job duties and/or employment duration. Specific background investigation and access requirements are identified for each of the types of ID cards.

PIV Card

Access Requirements: Unsupervised, full-time, logical and/or physical access for more than 6 months OR more than 180 aggregate days in a one year period. (IAW OMB M-05-24, VA Directive 0710, and Draft VA Handbook 0735)

ID Requirements: Two IDs compliant with PIV Guidelines

Background Investigation Requirements: Favorable SAC completion and NACI initiation

Non-PIV Card

Access Requirement: Unsupervised, logical and/or physical access for 180 consecutive or aggregate days in a 365 day period, over a 3 year period. *(IAW OMB M-05-24, VA Directive 0710, and Draft VA Handbook 0735)*

ID Requirements: Two IDs compliant with PIV Guidelines

Background Investigation Requirements: Favorable SAC completion

Flash Badge

Access Requirement: 180 consecutive or aggregated days in a one year period. (IAW OMB M-05-24, VA Directive 0710, and Draft VA Handbook 0735)

ID Requirements: One ID compliant with PIV Guidelines

Background Investigation Requirements: None

