



# TWIC Quick Notes

## Frequently Asked Questions

• **What is TWIC?**

TWIC is a common identification credential for all personnel requiring unescorted access to secure areas of MTSA-regulated facilities and vessels, and all mariners holding Coast Guard-issued credentials. TSA will issue workers a tamper-resistant "Smart Card" containing the worker's biometric (fingerprint template) to allow for a positive link between the card itself and the individual.

• **Who needs a TWIC?**

Company, vessel, and facility security officers and personnel responsible for security duties are required to obtain a TWIC. Individuals who frequently access secure areas in the course of their employment will also need to obtain a TWIC. These populations include but are not limited to:

- Non-credentialed mariners in vessel crew
- Facility employees who work in a secure area
- Truckers bringing/picking up cargo at a facility
- Agents
- Port chaplains
- Longshoremen
- Drayage truckers
- Surveyors
- Chandlers
- Other maritime professionals

• **Why should I pre-enroll?**

Applicants are encouraged to pre-enroll to save time at the enrollment center. The pre-enrollment process will allow you to submit necessary biographic information before enrolling, select the enrollment center of your choice to complete enrollment, and schedule an appointment at an enrollment center to mitigate long lines.

• **How do I pre-enroll?**

Call 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942) or visit [www.tsa.gov/twic](http://www.tsa.gov/twic).

• **How much will a TWIC cost?**

The TWIC will cost \$132.50 and is payable by Credit Card, Money Order or Certified Check. Those who hold a valid MMD issued after February 3, 2003, MML issued after January 13, 2006, HME issued after May 31, 2005, or a FAST card, may pay a reduced fee of \$105.25. Those applicants choosing to pay the reduced fee must present an MML, MMD, HME, or FAST card at the time of enrollment. If the reduced fee is paid, the TWIC expiration date will be 5 years from the issuance date of the supporting MML, MMD, HME, or FAST card.

• **When will I be able to register?**

Enrollment dates, locations, and information on enrolling will be available soon. To save time, you can Pre-enroll online or by phone. When enrollment begins in your area, you must visit an enrollment center to complete the enrollment process and pay the associated fee.

• **By what date must I enroll?**

USCG will publish in the Federal Register the TWIC compliance dates for each Captain of the Port Zone (COTP). In accordance with the TWIC Final Rule, USCG will provide at least 90 days notice prior to the compliance date. In no case will the compliance date be later than September 25, 2008. The dates for the initial enrollment periods can be found in the current TWIC schedule available on the TWIC website.

## TWIC INFORMATION

Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) is now part of U.S. law, and is mandated to be in effect April 15, 2009. TWIC is designed to be a security measure that will ensure individuals who pose a threat do not gain unescorted access to secure areas of the nation's maritime transportation system. TWIC is a federal background check required by the U.S Coast Guard.

Facilities that have port access will now require all in plant workers and all contractor's employees to have TWIC cards to show they have been through this extensive background check. Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Shell, and Tesoro Refineries are among those that will require TWIC cards as is USS/Posco Steel Mill and any other plant or business that has port access. Tesoro, we are told, will require TWIC cards by December 1, 2008.

To obtain a TWIC card is a three part process. First go online to <https://twicprogram.tsa.dhs.gov/TWICWebApp/> and fill out the preliminary application. This website will give you a location to go to and give you an opportunity to make a reservation to continue with the second part of the process which is to fill out paperwork, be fingerprinted, have your picture taken, and pay a fee of \$132.50. The third part of the process is to pick up your TWIC card. This entire process takes approximately three (3) months at this time, it may take longer as more people apply as the deadline looms.