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MARITIME SAFETY & SECURITY BULLETIN 16-10

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FRAUDULENT TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION (TWIC) CARD ISSUES



Front of a sample valid TWIC



Front of fraudulent TWIC

TWIC is a biometric identification credential issued to individuals who require unescorted access to secure areas of United States Coast Guard regulated ports, facilities, and vessels, as well as all mariners holding Coast Guard issued credentials or qualification documents. On April 6, 2010 an individual successfully gained access to a secure area of an MTSA regulated facility utilizing the fraudulent TWIC pictured above (right). The fraudulent card was similar in size, shape, and appearance to an actual TWIC; however the card lacked numerous security features that should have been detected. This case highlights the importance of maintaining compliance with the credential inspection requirements found in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 104.265(c)(1), 105.255(c)(1), or 106.260(c)(1). All CSOs, VSOs, and FSOs with a HOMEPOR account have access to the TWIC Security Features Document which can be found by selecting missions-maritime security-TWIC-general information-TWIC security features. Individuals with security duties should be familiar with the contents of this document to ensure they are properly inspecting TWIC cards prior to granting unescorted access to MTSA regulated facilities or vessels.

A problematic trend has been found in the Port of Baltimore. TWIC holders have been making Xerox copies of their card to prevent damage or loss and presenting the copy to gain entry into a facility. No person may make, cause to be made, use, or cause to be used, or transfer a false or fraudulently-created TWIC. Anyone presenting a paper copy of his or her TWIC card will need to provide the actual TWIC or face denial of entry and/or potential charges. A truck driver was arrested for using his friend's TWIC card to gain access to a facility. It is a violation of Federal Law for any person to use or attempt to use a credential that was issued to, or a security assessment that was conducted for, another person. Unlawful use, possession, alteration, or production of a TWIC may be punishable by a fine and/or imprisonment of up to 30 years, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1028. Owners and Operators of MTSA regulated facilities or vessels are responsible to ensure security measures are appropriately implemented in accordance with 33 CFR Subchapter H and their approved Facility Security Plan (FSP) or Vessel Security Plan. Questions or comments related to this Informational Bulletin should be directed to your nearest Coast Guard COTP.



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