



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Baltimore

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MARITIME SAFETY & SECURITY BULLETIN 42-11

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Transportation Worker Identification Credential TWIC Program Update

As the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security are reviewing the final report from the TWIC Reader Pilot Program, the Captain of the Port (COTP) Baltimore urges maritime security personnel and TWIC holders to continue vigilant verifications and validations of TWICs for individuals requiring unescorted access to secure areas of vessels and facilities as required by Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Part 101.514. The Coast Guard is working with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to develop the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that will articulate the implementation plan for the use of TWIC readers. The timeframe for publishing the NPRM is mid-2012.

The COTP Baltimore recognizes that TWIC card holders will begin seeing their cards expire in the fall of 2012; although a final TWIC rule has not yet been implemented, it is vital that TWIC holders maintain the validity of their cards, which may include renewal when required. TWIC effectively serves as an access control card as it includes visual and biometric security features. Possession of a valid, non-expired card provides for a fully vetted maritime workforce that has unescorted access to secure areas within the nation's ports. Individual security threat assessments are completed during enrollment and again during renewal, allowing for ongoing threat assessments to be completed. Until TWIC rules are finalized, the current requirement for visual inspection remains an effective means by which to verify TWICs.

Visual verifications of TWICs by security guards have been successful in identifying fraudulent cards and impersonation of valid TWIC holders. While the use of readers will enhance the TWIC program, readers should not be presumed to be the sole answer for the future of the program. Whether a facility currently employs TWIC readers or relies on visual TWIC verifications, expired TWICs shall render the card invalid.

For more information on TWIC Reader program and TWIC requirements please visit the Coast Guard website at: <http://www.homeport.uscg.mil/twic>. For information on TWIC renewal please visit: <http://www.twicinformation.com/twicinfo/index.jsp>. You may also direct questions or concerns to our Port Safety and Security Branch at 410-576-2698.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly M. Post".

KELLY M. POST
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CHIEF, PREVENTION DEPARTMENT
COAST GUARD SECTOR BALTIMORE