

TWIC

Transportation Workers
Identification Card

How was TWIC created?

Congress, through the Maritime Transportation Security Act, or MTSA, directed the federal government to issue a biometric transportation security credential to any individual with unescorted access to secure areas of facilities and vessels and all mariners holding Coast Guard issued credentials or qualification documents. Controlling access to secure areas is a critical component of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to enhance port security.

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 must get a TWIC?

An estimated 750,000 individuals will be required to obtain a TWIC. This includes Coast Guard-credentialed merchant mariners, port facility employees, longshoremen, truck drivers, and others requiring unescorted access to secure areas of maritime facilities and vessels regulated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act.

Exemption Clause

There is an exemption in the TWIC regulations that states 'government owned vessels not engaged in commerce' are exempt from TWIC

This does NOT exempt facilities! Each facility must request an exemption from their Coast Guard Captain of the Port

What Does This Mean For Us?

If we, Marine Technicians, want to go to and from the ship at a secure facility, UNESCORTED, we will need to have a TWIC card.

If Science Personnel want to get to the ship in a secure facility, they must have a TWIC card nor be escorted

Note: they can only be escorted IF that facility allows it in their Security Plan

Univ. of Washington – We have filed or intend to file for a facility exemption. If we get the exemption then people, including UW faculty, students, delivery drivers, cruise participants, etc can have access to our dock and not be escorted.

If we are not granted an exemption then all those groups mentioned above must either have a TWIC card or must be escorted at all times while inside our facility.

From what I have read and heard, I suggest that all Marine Technicians get a TWIC card.

Why?

If we want to be able to come and go on our ship's whenever we want then we must have a TWIC card. Otherwise, we will have to be escorted to and from the ship at secure facilities as do the scientists.

How does this affect us? (cont)

Most Scientists will probably not get TWIC cards.

This means that they will need to be escorted to and from the ship at secure facilities. Maybe your home dock?

Longer in-port periods to load and unload science

How does this affect us? (cont)

Disgruntled science personnel due to all the extra time and effort it will take to get their cruise embarked and disembarked.

Options?

Make suggestions to the UNOLS Council regarding science personnel requirements for TWIC cards i.e. All Chief Scientists, All PI's, ALL???