



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) – Reader Requirements

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Coast Guard published in the *Federal Register* a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), in which the Coast Guard proposes to require owners and operators of certain vessels and facilities regulated by the Coast Guard under 33 CFR Chapter I, subchapter H, to use electronic readers designed to work with the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) as an access control measure. The NPRM also proposes additional requirements associated with electronic TWIC readers, including recordkeeping requirements for those owners and operators required to use an electronic TWIC reader, and security plan amendments to incorporate TWIC requirements.

The TWIC program, including the TWIC reader requirements in this proposed rule, is an important component of the Coast Guard's multi-layered system of access control requirements and other measures designed to enhance maritime security. This rulemaking action, once final, would enhance the security of vessels, ports, and other facilities by building upon existing Coast Guard regulations designed to ensure that only individuals who hold a TWIC are granted unescorted access to secure areas at those locations. The Coast Guard has already promulgated regulations pursuant to the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) that require mariners and other individuals to obtain a TWIC and present it for inspection by security personnel prior to gaining access to such secure areas. By requiring certain vessels and facilities to perform TWIC inspections using electronic TWIC readers, this rulemaking would further enhance security at those locations. This rulemaking would also implement the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act of 2006 electronic TWIC reader requirements.

The NPRM and related materials may be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> docket number: USCG-2007-28915. The comment period closes May 21, 2013.

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