

# ATTENTION MARINERS!

- The September 25, 2008 deadline for all U.S. Coast Guard credentialed mariners has been extended to April 15, 2009. By law, all U.S. Coast Guard-credentialed mariners with an active Merchant Mariner's Document (MMD), License, and/or Certificate of Registry (COR), with or without an STCW endorsement, must hold a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) to maintain their mariner credentials. Failure to obtain and continue to hold a valid TWIC may result in suspension or revocation of your mariner credentials. After April 15, 2009, the Coast Guard will not issue a merchant mariner credential to an applicant who does not hold a valid TWIC.
- To apply for a TWIC, you must first enroll at any TWIC enrollment center. Pre-enrollment through the TSA website, [www.tsa.gov/twic](http://www.tsa.gov/twic), will expedite processing time at the center. You will need to pick up your TWIC, after being notified that it is ready, at the same enrollment center where you applied. In order to ensure the information on your TWIC application is forwarded to the U.S. Coast Guard for the processing of your merchant mariner credential application, you must identify yourself as a mariner at the TWIC enrollment center. You must also provide proof of citizenship and/or alien status and your Social Security Number.
- For now, you must still apply separately for your original or renewal merchant mariner credential through the U.S. Coast Guard in person at a Regional Exam Center. In the future, TWIC holders may be able to conduct their merchant mariner credential transactions with the Coast Guard entirely by mail.
- If your MMD was issued after February 3, 2003, or your License was issued after January 13, 2006, you are eligible for a reduced-fee TWIC because those credentials are based on similar threat assessments. However, a reduced-fee TWIC will expire at the same time as your mariner credential. The full-fee TWIC will be valid for five years after issuance. To get the most for your money, we suggest that you only choose to receive the reduced-fee TWIC if your MMD or License was issued less than 14 months prior to the date of your TWIC enrollment.
- The requirement to obtain a TWIC was established by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) and is outlined in Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 10.113 and 12.01-11. The TWIC program is administered by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Mariners may use their valid Coast Guard-issued MMD, License or COR, along with a valid photo ID, to be eligible for unescorted access in secure areas of any MTSA-regulated facility that has a compliance date earlier than April 15, 2009.

The TWIC is a tamper-resistant, common identification credential, issued by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), containing a biometric (fingerprint template) of the card holder.

