



May 14, 2009

Port Security Information Bulletin 02- 09

TWIC CARD INFORMATION UPDATE

The following is a clarification regarding the Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) and escorting requirements.

Background: The enforcement date for TWIC implementation in the COTP Port Arthur area (which includes both the Sabine-Neches and Calcasieu waterways) was established by Congress to be 14 April 2009. Subsequently, a waiver of extension was granted for those required to have TWIC, had applied for TWIC, but had not received their credentials yet. That extension expired on Wednesday 13 May 2009 throughout the COTP Port Arthur area.

Current information: All individuals seeking to gain entry to a vessel, facility, or Outer Continental Shelf facility regulated by parts 104, 105, or 106 of 33 CFR Subchapter H must either be in possession of a valid TWIC card or be escorted while inside a secure area. The individual conducting the escort must be in possession of a valid TWIC. Escorting, defined in 33 CFR 101.105, means ensuring that the escorted individual is **continuously** accompanied while within a secure area in a manner sufficient to observe whether the escorted individual is engaged in activities other than those for which escorted access was granted. **Company access badges or permits will not be considered valid for the purposes of an individual being unescorted inside a secure area.**

Responsibility: The owner/operator is responsible for determining how escorting will be carried out in accordance with the regulations found in 33 CFR Subchapter H and further guidance found in NVIC 03-07. Individuals that monitor or provide side-by-side physical accompaniment must possess a valid TWIC. It is worth noting that escorts are not always considered "facility personnel with security duties" because they do not perform security duties as a primary function of their employment, and as such are not subject to the requirements of 33 CFR 104.220, 105.210, or 106.215.

A model or template TWIC Escort document has can be found in the Port Arthur/Lake Charles Homeport site under COTP information, General Information, Community Outreach. Open the file UPDATED TWIC INFO MARCH 30, 2009 and there is a word document titled TWIC Escort Letter.

Discussions are in progress in the Southeast Texas Waterway Advisory Council (SETWAC) to develop a proposal for a regional approach to escort training. Those interested in contributing to that discussion are encouraged to participate.

What if someone enrolled and still has no TWIC card? Information on application status can be found at www.twicinformation.com. In addition, there is an 866 phone number at the bottom of the page to call TSA with questions. The COTP **cannot** check an application status- only the applicant can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. J. Plunkett".

J. J. Plunkett
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port