Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Requirements

As announced by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the final compliance date for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program in the San Francisco Captain of the Port (COTP) zone is February 28th, 2009. Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), parts 104, 105 and 106 require all persons requiring unescorted access to secure areas of vessels, facilities, and Outer Continental Shelf facilities regulated by the Coast Guard to possess a TWIC before such access is granted. While the regulations contain provisions that allow for the escorting of individuals who do not possess a TWIC, it is not the intention of the regulations, as interpreted in Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 03-07, to allow escorting of individuals who regularly require access to these areas. It is the intention of the COTP that people engaged in the following professions who will need frequent access to secure areas in the course of their employment will obtain TWICs. This list is not exhaustive, but is illustrative of those who will likely need a TWIC:

- Longshoremen
- Drayage Truckers
- Facility Employees if working in a secure area
- Surveyors
- Agents
- Vessel crew (in addition to credentialed mariners)
- Truckers bringing cargo onto a facility or picking up cargo at a facility
- Chandlers
- Port Chaplains
- Casual laborers who frequently access secure areas
- Contractors who frequently access secure areas
- Other maritime professionals

A vessel or facility in the San Francisco COTP zone not implementing a TWIC program in accordance with the regulations after February 28th, 2009, is subject to civil penalty action and may be subject to additional control and compliance measures, including suspension of facility or vessel operations.

Local TWIC enrollment centers can be found online and are currently located in Oakland, San Francisco, Richmond, Sacramento, Stockton, Eureka, and Benicia. A toll-free TWIC help desk (1-866-DHS-TWIC) provides around-the-clock service for merchant mariners, transportation workers, facility/vessel owners/operators, and others who require assistance related to the TWIC program. Additional information on TWIC requirements is available online at www.tsa.gov/twic or at homeport.uscg.mil.

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