

TWIC

TWIC cards will be required for all individuals, licensed or unlicensed, who work on a US flag towing vessel or ship. The cards are separate from any other identification and must be carried on the individual at all times. They are issued for 5 year periods.

Mariners will have approximately 20 months to obtain the cards prior to the time that card readers are required at facilities; however, the USCG will have hand-held card readers to spot check compliance during the interim period.

Further Details:

1. **Cost of the cards:** \$107 to \$159, depending on status. Licensed mariners with licenses issued after Jan 13, 2006, will qualify for the lower rate. Mariners with MMD's issued after Feb 3, 2003 will qualify for the lower rate. All others will probably be charged the higher rate.
2. **Travel and Time commitments:** ALL mariners, no matter their status, will have to make at least three trips to personally appear at the yet-to-be-designated TWIC processing center for the following transactions:
 - **Application for the Cards:** (even if they have completed the optional on-line pre-registration). They will be photographed, fingerprinted, and asked to sign documents.
 - **Delivery/pick-up of the Cards:** Their finger prints will be checked against the prints on the card.
 - **Updating of Information on the Cards:** Within the first few months to have updated information scanned into the data fields of their cards.
 - **Further updates:** Whenever certain personal information changes (i.e. home address, contact information, etc) the card will need to be updated by the TWIC processing center.
3. **Expiration dates of the cards:** The cards can be issued for 5 years; however, Merchant Mariner Licenses and Document expiration dates will affect the expiration date of the TWIC card. For instance, if a Mariner gets a TWIC card in 2007, and his license expires in 2009, then he will have to renew his TWIC card in 2009, at the same time he renews his License – in order to get them on the same cycle. Although they are separate credentials, the expiration dates will be adjusted to coincide – assuming that the mariner takes the “licensed or MMD discount”.
4. **Renewals of Licenses, Documents, and TWIC cards:** For future renewals, the TWIC card cannot be renewed until the license is renewed. Mariners will need to start early. They will seldom, if ever, get the full 5 years on a license or a TWIC card.
5. **Employers out of the Loop:** TWIC card processing and administration is set up as a process directly between the Mariner and TSA. Employers are out of the loop. Appeals, waivers, and revocation actions – including reporting of lost credentials – are all handled directly between the affected individual and the TWIC processing center.