



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Key West
100 Trumbo Road
Key West, FL 33040-6655

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Contact: MST1 Dall/MST2 Moore
Phone: (305) 292-8823
E-Mail: D07-DG-Seckw-
preventionduty@uscg.mil



Cruise Ship Terminal TWIC Reader Regulations

On August 23, 2016, the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Reader Requirements Final Rule was published in the Federal Register. This document outlines changes to the Marine Transportation Security Act (MTSA) as outlined in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 105, which will become effective August 23, 2018. The Final Rule impacts Risk Group A (high risk) MTSA regulated facilities. This includes facilities that receive vessels certified to carry over 1000 passengers. Coast Guard Sector Key West is conducting outreach to cruise ship facilities that will be applicable to these regulations.

Changes to Regulations:

Upon the effective date, electronic TWIC verification will be required for every instance of unescorted access to a facility's secure and restricted areas. This will include all TWIC holding employees conducting security duties within the secure or restricted areas.

Implementation Options:

There are five implementation options outlined by the Final Rule. All electronic verification options must meet three electronic checks: authentication and validation of the TWIC and verification the card holder's identity through the TWIC stored biometric information. Implementation options include TWIC readers listed on the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Qualified Technology List (QTL), TWIC readers not listed on the QTL, Transparent Readers, Physical Access Control System (PACS) with facility access card, and a PACS with biometric only.

Recordkeeping Requirements:

The Final Rule also includes additional recordkeeping requirements. Records of every instance of a person being granted unescorted access to a secure area will be kept for two years. These will include the Federal Agency Smart Credential – Number (FASC-N) of the TWIC issued, TWIC holders name, and the date and time of access rounded to the nearest minute. There will also be a requirement to keep a record of updates to the cancelled card list (CCL). The CCL will be required to be updated weekly at MARSEC level 1 and daily at elevated MARSEC levels.

Questions concerning the TWIC Reader Requirements Final Rule may be directed to Sector Key West Prevention Department, at (305) 292-8823, or by email as noted in the header.