



Homeland  
Security

# Press Release

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TSA Public Affairs: (571) 227-2829

U.S. Coast Guard Public Affairs: (202) 372-4620

## DHS Agencies Announce Progress on TWIC Program

*Start of Enrollment, Port Listing, Lower Fee Announced as Vital Security Measure Nears Implementation*

WILMINGTON, Del. – On October 16, port workers, longshoremen, truckers and others at the port of Wilmington, Del., will become the first workers in the nation to enroll in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program. The program ensures that any individual who has unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities and vessels has received a thorough background check and is not a security threat.

The announcement of the enrollment date was one of a number of details about the program released today by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Coast Guard. Other developments include the release of the next 11 ports where enrollment will begin in November, publication of an updated port site list with additional enrollment locations, and a revised final rule that lowered the credential fee to \$132.50.

"These developments reflect progress toward the implementation of this important port security measure," said TSA Administrator Kip Hawley. "TWIC is one of the world's most advanced interoperable biometric systems and has a lot of moving pieces. We are now seeing those pieces come together."

Workers at the port of Wilmington will be able to pre-enroll for TWIC starting October 9. A link to the pre-enrollment Web site will be available on the TSA Web site ([www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)). Pre-enrolling online speeds up the process by allowing workers to provide biographic information and schedule a time to complete the application process in person. This eliminates waiting at enrollment centers and reduces the time it takes to enroll each individual.

The revised TWIC rule, posted to the Federal Register on September 28, made a few minor changes to the program. One that will impact every applicant is reducing the fee for obtaining a standard TWIC by nearly \$5, which will now cost \$132.50. The credential is valid for five years and the fee is below the federal government's original estimate for the credential. The fee includes the cost of the threat assessment, program management, card production and issuance. Workers with current, comparable background checks, including a hazardous materials endorsement on a commercial driver's license, Merchant Mariner's Document or Free and Secure Trade (FAST) credential, will pay a discounted fee of \$105.25.

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Along with the start date for enrollment at Wilmington, TSA and the Coast Guard also announced the next 11 ports that will begin enrolling in November. They are:

Early November:

- Corpus Christi, Texas

Mid-November

- Baton Rouge, La.
- Beaumont, Texas
- Honolulu, Hawaii
- Oakland, Calif.
- Tacoma, Wash.

Late November

- Chicago/Calumet, Ill.
- Houston, Texas
- Port Arthur, Texas
- Providence, R.I.
- Savannah, Ga.

The order of ports is based on a variety of factors including risk, geographic location, size and contractor resources. Specific dates for these ports will be released later this month along with information on other major ports.

More information on the TWIC program is available on TSA's Web site at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) and more information on port security is available at the Coast Guard's Homeport site, <http://homeport.uscg.mil>, by clicking on the Maritime Security link.

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