



Transportation Security Administration

NOTE: This Technical Advisory describes a matter which may impact your product.

TWIC[®] Technical Advisory TA-2020-TWIC002-V1.0

Technical Impact of the April 2020 *Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC[®]) Exemption to Extend the Expiration Date of Certain TWICs on Card Operations*

Introduction

This Technical Advisory announces TSA's publication of a temporary exemption from requirements in 49 CFR part 1572 regarding the expiration of certain Transportation Worker Identification Credentials (TWIC[®]s). The exemption, *Exemption to Extend the Expiration Date of certain Transportation Worker Identification Credentials*, may impact the use of expired credentials in certain access control solutions and readers.

Background and Definition

Effective April 10, 2020, TSA determined that it is in the public interest to grant an exemption from the current TWIC expiration standard in 49 CFR part 1572, which is five years from the date of issuance, given the need for transportation workers to continue to work without interruption during the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) National Emergency.

For TWICs expiring on or after March 1, 2020, the exemption extends the validity of a TWIC for 180 days for an individual whose TWIC would otherwise expire

during the effective period of the exemption. TSA may extend this exemption at a future date. TSA maintains the ability to recurrently vet TWIC holders and take action to cancel or revoke a TWIC if derogatory information becomes available, regardless of the expiration date.

Problem Statement

The use of expired TWIC cards may present challenges for those facilities and vessels who electronically inspect the validity of the TWIC with the expiration date. TSA does not plan to issue new TWIC cards with extended expiration dates to those cardholders whose TWIC security threat assessment expiration date is extended with this exemption, at this time. TSA records indicate that 234,536, or approximately 10 percent of active TWICs, will expire in the next six months

Description of New or Unique Process

In accordance with USCG regulations and requirements, facility or vessel owners and operators may accept as eligible, TWIC cards that show an expired date for unescorted access to secure areas. TSA will extend the security threat assessment expiration date for an eligible TWIC to 180 days after the current expiration date that appears on the face of the credential. If the 180-day period extends past July 31, 2020, the TWIC will be valid for the remainder of the extended 180-day period based on the expiration date of the TWIC.

Use of New or Unique Process

Access control solutions and electronic readers may report that a TWIC card covered under this exemption is “expired” based on the expiration data stored on the physical TWIC card. TSA cannot change the expiration dates that are stored on the TWIC card.

Facilities and vessels who use electronic inspection procedures may need to develop exceptions to current inspection processes during the exemption period. For example, facilities or vessels may need to provide inspectors new guidance on how to recognize a valid TWIC card with an expiration date on or after March 1, 2020. TWIC expiration date records may need to be revised in access control systems at the discretion of facility and vessel owners and operators. Entities impacted by this exemption may contact TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov for additional information.

On April 3, 2020, USCG published Marine Safety Information Bulletin 13-20, *COVID-19 – TWIC Operations*. In this bulletin, USCG stated that the TWIC regulations outlined throughout 33 and 46 Code of Federal Regulations remain in force, and maritime operators are expected to continue to comply with these requirements. However, when compliance with these regulations cannot reasonably be met as a result of COVID-19, the Coast Guard will exercise flexibility to prevent undue delays.

As required by regulation, USCG, and facility or vessel security officials, TWIC inspection should continue for unescorted access to secure areas; however, facilities and vessels may need to incorporate new electronic and visual validation procedures to accommodate the TWIC exemption.

Design Features of New or Unique Process

The creation and posting of the Canceled Card Lists (CCLs), including the Canceled Card List and Visual Canceled Card List, are not impacted by this exemption. The TWIC CCLs report canceled TWIC Credential Identification Numbers (CINs).

Comments

Questions on this Technical Advisory should be addressed to TSA Enrollment Services and Vetting Programs, TWIC Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification Project Editor, TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov.

Subject References

(Clarified) TWIC® Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification, Version 1.1 Amendment 1, May 2012.

Keywords

Access Control
Electronic Inspection
Exemption
Exemption Notice
Expiration Date
Expired Card
Reader
Transportation Worker Identification Credential
TWIC
Validation

Standard Details

Refer to *References* in the Subject Reference document.

Specifications or Special Provision

(Clarified) TWIC® Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification, Version 1.1 Amendment 1, May 2012.

Supersedes Dates

There is no previous Technical Advisory issued that addresses this unique change.

This Technical Advisory shall be active until further notice.

Obtain More Information

More technical information on TWIC can be obtained at the e-mail address: TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov.

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