



**MARITIME EXCHANGE**  
for the Delaware River and Bay

**ALERT**

**April 8, 2020**

TO: Maritime Exchange Members

As you may recall, since the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program went live, TSA and Coast Guard have met regularly with stakeholders to provide updates and answer questions. Following are highlights of the discussions during the April 7, 2020 TWIC® stakeholder committee conference call. The [slide deck](#), which contains more detail about the items below and several other matters, is available for your review and download on the Exchange [TWIC webpage](#).

## **COVID-19 IMPACTS**

### **Card Application and Renewal**

TSA and its contractor are striving to keep enrollment centers open where possible, though some centers are closing from time to time. About 33% of all centers have closed for the duration of the coronavirus.

- Note: According to the enrollment center locator on the [Universal Enrollment](#) webpage, 7 of the 10 locations within a 50-mile radius of our port region are currently operating. The page indicates that the New Castle and Dover, Delaware centers are closed through May 2, 2020.

TSA encourages applicants to check the webpage before going to any enrollment centers to verify their status and hours of operation.

TSA reports that the vetting, card production, and card issuance processes are all operating normally, with applicants receiving cards within four days of enrollment on average, unless manual vetting is necessary.

Though it is possible to return to an enrollment center for card pickup, TSA encourages applicants to select the direct shipping (i.e., mailing) option for card delivery.

Anyone who has a card waiting for pickup at an enrollment center that has since closed can request an alternate delivery option through the enrollment website.

Because some state driver license centers are also closing, enrollment centers will accept expired drivers licenses as ID (if expired on or after 3/1/2020) during TWIC enrollment.

Because of the challenges associated with renewing cards, TSA is considering temporarily allowing the use of expired cards for a period of no more than 30 days. We may see guidance by the end of this week or early next week.

For new hires experiencing long waits for enrollment appointments, facilities and vessels can ask their Captains of the Port for temporary areas of non-compliance.

### **Other Considerations**

Coast Guard Guidance: Coast Guard reminded stakeholders to review [MSIB 13-20](#) for coronavirus-related guidance on TWIC escort ratios, new hires, and other Coast Guard processes.

TWIC Inspections: Onsite TWIC inspections are still taking place. For the time being, local TSA federal security directors are assuming responsibility for inspections. FSDs will check with Captains of the Port to learn of any exceptions granted.

### **RELATED PROGRAMS**

HME Endorsements: TSA is granting a temporary exemption from requirements regarding expiration of security threat assessments for hazardous material endorsement holders. States may grant extensions of up to 180 days for HMEs that expired or would otherwise expire between March 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020, the end date of this exemption. TSA may extend this exemption at a future date depending on the status of the COVID-19 crisis. See today's [Federal Register](#) notice for details.

TSA Pre✓®: Beginning on or about April 15, 2020, eligible TWIC stakeholders may receive expedited TSA screening at airports.

We hope this information is helpful. Members who have questions not addressed in the [slide deck](#) are welcome to contact Exchange VP [Lisa Himber](#).

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