



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

TWIC[®] Technical Advisory TA-2018-TWIC001-V1.0

First Public Release of the Next Generation Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC[®]) Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification (4 Parts)

Introduction

This Technical Advisory announces the first public release and comment period for the Next Generation (NEXGEN) TWIC[®] Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification provided in four (4) parts. There are no immediate plans to require the use of this proposed NEXGEN TWIC[®] specification.

Background and Definition

The current TWIC[®] Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification was published in May 2012 and remains in effect until further notice. As part of a security and technology update, this public release of the NEXGEN specification is designed to gather comments, suggested changes, and contributions to a new specification that may be formally published in the future.

Problem Statement

The TWIC[®] program requests smart card reader entities who use and rely on the TWIC[®] card to provide input on the proposed specification. Comments may result in a revised specification that will be circulated for comment at a future date. There are two rounds of public comments under consideration by the TSA TWIC[®] program.

Description

The specification is composed of four (4) parts described in the attachment. Each part will have a comment sheet to provide response to TSA's TWIC[®] program via e-mail at TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov. The comment period is open from the date of publication of this technical advisory. Requests for this public release for comment specification must be made via e-mail at TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov.

Use of New or Unique Process

There should be no impact or changes in the existing process used by smart card readers as this specification is strictly for gathering industry comments.

Design Features of the New or Unique Process

The proposed new specification is focused on maintaining backwards compatibility with existing TWIC[®] cards.

Comments

Please direct questions to TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov.

Subject References

(Clarified) TWIC® Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification, Version 1.1 Amendment 1, May 2012 remains in effect with respect to compliance.

Keywords

TWIC®
NEXGEN
New TWIC® Data Model
Reader Hardware Specification

Standard Details

Refer to the 2012 specification, TWIC® Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification, Version 1.1 Amendment 1, for current requirements.

Specifications or Special Provision(s)

- (Clarified) TWIC® Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification, Version 1.1 Amendment 1, May 2012.
- New NEXGEN TWIC® specification for comment (Four Parts).

Supersedes Dates

There is no previous Technical Advisory issued that addresses this matter.

This Technical Advisory shall be active until further notice. On TSA's disposition of comments and revisions to the NEXGEN TWIC® specification, TSA plans to send a revised notice.

Obtain more Information

More technical information on TWIC® can be obtained by sending an e-mail to TWIC-Technology@tsa.dhs.gov.

END

ATTACHMENT A

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC®¹) documentation consists of four parts which are linked.

The **first part** presents the general concepts of TWIC® from a functional standpoint, without details on TWIC® implementation.

The **second part** describes the TWIC® card interface, the two card applications contained in the card (known as TWIC® and PIV) as well as the behavior of the card during normal operation.

The **third part** describes TWIC® reader requirements, the type of mechanical and electrical specifications readers must comply with, as well as the various options a TWIC® reader manufacturer may claim. Both portable and fixed TWIC® readers are described in this third part. The functions specified in the third part shall comply with all document requirements for a TWIC® reader to appear on the publicly available TWIC® Qualified Technology List (QTL) published by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration (TSA). TWIC® readers that appear on the QTL have undergone extensive laboratory evaluation to determine that the subject TWIC® reader performs as claimed. As a result of such testing, TWIC® QTL readers may offer a valuable advantage to operators over non-evaluated reader technology.

The **fourth part** is for informational purposes and provides guidance on how a Physical Access Control System (PACS) can register a TWIC® card and how the TWIC® cardholder may use a TWIC® credential as a physical access credential in various modes of operation. In the fourth part, some suggestions are added on the use of TWIC® NEXGEN PIN Protected Data Objects as well as “E-Stickers” which may allow a PACS to read and write entity-specific information in the TWIC® card (should TSA elect to enable this feature on TWIC® cards).

The TWIC® specification was initially developed by the National Maritime Security Advisory Committee (NMSAC) in response to a request from the TSA and the U.S. Coast Guard. The NMSAC TWIC® Working Group included members of the maritime industry with support from representatives from the security technology industry who are affiliated with such organizations as the International Biometric Industry Association² (IBIA), the Security Industry Association (SIA), and the Smart Card Alliance³. The original specification developed by the NMSAC TWIC® Working Group was modified to accommodate TSA security and privacy requirements.

¹ TWIC® is a registered trademark of the United States Transportation Security Administration.

² The International Biometric Industry Association has changed its name to the International Biometric + Identity Association (www.ibia.org).

³ The Smart Card Alliance changed its name to Secure Technology Alliance (<https://www.securetechalliance.org>).