

Virginia Port Authority Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) Port User Notification

September 12, 2008

The United States Coast Guard has announced that a Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) will be required for unescorted access in the Port of Hampton Roads beginning **January 13, 2009**. This means that all non-visitors will be required to obtain a TWIC card to gain access to VPA marine terminals, including: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, and Newport News Marine Terminal. **All longshoremen, truck drivers, tenant employees, delivery personnel, and contractors, not previously enrolled, should begin the enrollment process now!**

All workers requiring access within the fenced portion of VPA marine terminals will be required to obtain a TWIC. There are no public areas designated on VPA marine terminals. Terminals are divided into two areas – secure and restricted. A TWIC is required to enter both of these designated areas. A TWIC will not be required to enter the Virginia Inland Port, Portsmouth Operations Center, or the new VIT Office Building on Terminal Boulevard in Norfolk.

Authorized visitors will be required to contact a designated escort in advance to gain access onto a terminal. Visitors must remain under “side by side” escort during their entire visit. Federal law prohibits unlimited escorting and specifies actual escort ratios depending upon the identified security area to be accessed. Only authorized escorts may accompany visitors. **All workers must possess a TWIC in addition to their VPA Port Identification and will be required to present their TWIC at a port police ID office after November 1, 2008 but prior to January 13, 2009. Do not wait; enroll now!**

On-line pre-enrollment should not be confused with actual enrollment. Applicants are not enrolled unless the application fee has been paid at an enrollment site, and all requirements are met, including fingerprinting and photographing. The cost of the card is \$ 132.50. Walk-ins are accepted or applicants can schedule an appointment on-line. Although the enrollment process time line has been significantly reduced from enrollment to receipt of card, workers have experienced delays of two to three months or longer, in some cases. Local enrollment sites are located at:

814 Greenbrier Circle, Suite F, Chesapeake, VA, Open M – F, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.
11815 Fountain Way, Suite 300, Room 359, Newport News, VA, Open M – F, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.

More information on enrollment can be found at: www.tsa.gov/twic or <http://twicinformation.com> or by e-mailing credentialing@dhs.gov or calling the TWIC Help Desk @ 1-866-DHS-TWIC (1-866-347-8942).