

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598



Transportation
Security
Administration

June 6, 2013

James H. I. Weakley
President
Lake Carriers' Association
20325 Center Ridge Rd.
Suite 720
Rocky River, OH 44116

Dear Mr. Weakley:

Thank you for your letter of June 3, 2013, Docket NO. TSA-2006-24191, Intent to Request Renewal from OMB of One Current Public Collection of Information: TWIC Program. Industry input is an important part of program implementation.

Congress directed the Federal Government, through the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA), to conduct a security threat assessment and issue a biometric security credential to individuals who require unescorted access to secure areas of facilities and vessels and mariners holding Coast Guard- issued credentials or qualification documents. In response to this requirement, the Transportation Security Administration established the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program.

The Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) is issued by the United States Coast Guard (USCG). The MMC and the TWIC serve two separate purposes for a mariner. The MMC serves as an individual's qualification document, certificate of identification and certificate of service. The TWIC is an identification credential indicating that an individual does not pose a terrorism threat, and it is issued after the completion of a security threat assessment. The MMC is issued after an applicant demonstrates he/she is qualified as to age, character, habits of life, experience, professional qualifications, physical fitness and citizenship.

When a mariner serves on a vessel requiring a vessel security plan, he/she is required to have been issued a TWIC. Furthermore, the data collected during the TWIC enrollment process is used by the USCG in determining an individual's eligibility for a MMC. By leveraging the data collected through the TWIC process, the Federal Government has eliminated the need for an individual to visit a USCG Regional Exam Center to provide personal data.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Rex Lovelady', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Rex Lovelady
TWIC Program Manager