

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Update Regarding
the
Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Qualified Technology List (QTL) Program

On June 28th the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program held a workshop for laboratories interested in becoming accredited to test and qualify TWIC readers. Readers completing the qualification process will be included on a TWIC Reader Qualified Technology List (QTL). The workshop, hosted by ID Technology Partners (IDTP) at their Gaithersburg, MD facility, was attended by participants in the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NAVLAB) conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In addition to TWIC program personnel, representatives of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Coast Guard attended the workshop.

The TWIC Reader QTL program will be used to qualify readers for compliance with the TWIC Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification in advance of the U.S. Coast Guard rule which will specify requirements for using TWIC readers among maritime facilities and vessels that fall under the requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002. TSA's QTL program approach is to have third party NAVLAB facilities test and qualify TWIC readers that will be then be placed on the QTL maintained by TSA. Once laboratories are accredited later this summer reader manufacturers can submit devices for testing. TSA is pursuing an aggressive timeline for publishing the first QTL to support the reader rule schedule and to guide maritime facility operators who wish to acquire readers now.

The final procedural qualification report along with the environmental certifications required by the specification will be forwarded to TSA for review. All of the specifications are based on the TWIC reader specification which has been available since May 2008 (http://www.tsa.gov/assets/pdf/twic_reader_card_app_spec.pdf).

Once the certification documentation from the testing laboratory is reviewed and approved by TSA the reader will be added to the QTL list which will be posted on the TSA TWIC web site. A reader vendor workshop is planned in the late July to early August timeframe will be held in the Washington area to launch the program. Further details will be made available on our web site www.tsa.gov/twic/reader.