

HOW TO DEFINE AND IDENTIFY ESSENTIAL MARITIME TRANSPORTATION WORKERS FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

The Americans who work onboard vessels and at ports and terminals play vital roles in the transportation of critical commodities including food products, consumer goods, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, energy cargoes, and manufacturing inputs. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency recognizes mariners and other maritime transportation workers as essential critical infrastructure workers in its December 2020 [Advisory Memorandum on Ensuring Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers' Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response](#), which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has utilized to define essential workers for COVID-19 vaccination prioritization. Below are ways to identify mariners and maritime transportation workers and verify their essential status for vaccination.

TRANSPORTATION WORKER IDENTIFICATION CREDENTIAL

Many maritime transportation workers carry a federal [Transportation Worker Identification Credential \(TWIC\)](#).

States and vaccine providers may use TWIC cards to verify a maritime transportation worker's essential status.

WHAT IS A TWIC?

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC®) is a biometric credential required by law for workers who need access to secure areas of maritime facilities and vessels. Most mariners licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard are required to hold a valid TWIC card.

WHO USES A TWIC?

- Mariners
- Port authority and commercial maritime facility personnel
- Stevedores, longshoremen, and line handlers
- Vessel owners and operators



MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL

Mariners may also carry a Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC). States and vaccine providers may use MMCs to verify a mariner's essential status.

WHAT IS AN MMC?

An MMC is issued by the U.S. Coast Guard and is required documentation for officers and crewmembers of many domestic vessels over 100 gross tons. An MMC looks like a U.S. passport.

WHO USES AN MMC?

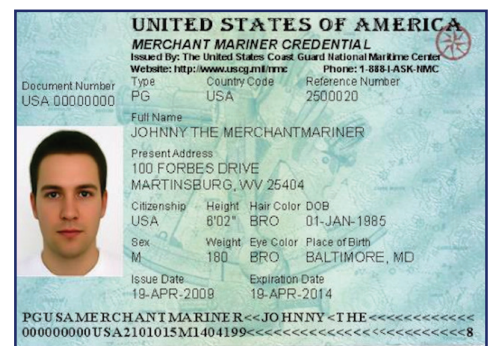
- Vessel officers, including masters, mates and engineers
- Vessel crewmembers
- Tankermen

OTHER TYPES OF IDENTIFICATION

Mariners who work on the inland waterways of the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri river systems may not be required to hold a TWIC or an MMC. These individuals may be able to provide a letter from their employer attesting to their status as an essential maritime transportation worker.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

As the national trade association for the tugboat, towboat and barge industry – the largest segment of the domestic maritime industry – the American Waterways Operators stands ready to assist you in developing an effective strategy to vaccinate America's essential mariners and maritime transportation workers as efficiently as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact the AWO team for assistance.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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