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News Release

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Virginia Port Authority Transportation Workers Identification Credential (TWIC) Port User Notification; Deadline Set for Jan. 13, 2008

NORFOLK -- 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 Jan. 13, 2009.

This means that all non-visitors will be required to obtain a TWIC card to gain access to the VPA's marine terminals, which are: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, and Newport News Marine Terminal. **All longshoremen, truck drivers, tenant employees, delivery personnel, and contractors who have not previously enrolled, are advised to begin the enrollment process immediately.**

All workers requiring access within the fenced portion of the VPA's marine terminals will be required to obtain a TWIC card; **there will be no exceptions.** There are no public areas designated on VPA marine terminals; terminals are divided into two areas, 1) secure and 2) restricted and a TWIC card is required to enter both of these designated areas. A TWIC card

will not be required to enter the Virginia Inland Port in Front Royal, the 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 and only authorized escorts may accompany visitors. **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. All workers must possess a TWIC card in addition to their VPA-issued port identification card and will be required to present their TWIC card at a port police ID office after Nov. 1, 2008, but prior to Jan. 13, 2009.

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 at the region’s two enrollment offices, 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 offices are located:

-- **Chesapeake:** 814 Greenbrier Circle, Suite F. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm.

-- **Newport News:** 11815 Fountain Way, Suite 300, Room 359. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 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).

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The Virginia Port Authority (VPA) is an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, reporting to the state Secretary of Transportation. The VPA owns and operates four general cargo facilities on behalf of the state: Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Newport News Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port in Warren County. The terminals are operated by Virginia International Terminals, Inc. (VIT) the non-stock, non-profit operating company. The VPA, through terminal earnings generated by VIT, is operationally self-sufficient. The VPA and correlating maritime industry is responsible for 343,000 jobs, \$41 billion in total revenues throughout the Commonwealth.