



**Comparability between the Security Threat Assessments (STAs) for the Hazardous Materials
Endorsement (HME) and
the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has determined that the security threat assessments (STAs) for the Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HME) and the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) are comparable. Therefore, an individual who holds a TWIC may be eligible for a reduced fee when applying for an HME on their commercial driver’s license because he or she can forgo the portion of the STA already completed for the TWIC. If an individual uses the TWIC STA as a comparable assessment when applying for an HME, then the HME expiration date will be tied to the expiration date of the TWIC STA -- the HME will expire *no later* than the TWIC STA.

Effective February 27, 2012, eligible HME applicants will be offered the option to use their TWIC STA as a comparable STA during the application process. Highlights of this comparability are below, followed by related questions and answers.

Comparability -- Eligibility:

An individual must meet the *two* eligibility requirements below in order to be offered the option to pay a reduced fee during the HME STA application process:

- 1) The individual must hold a valid TWIC with at least one year remaining prior to the TWIC STA expiration date. This information will be verified by TSA during the HME STA application process. Individual applicants will verify this information online at: <http://hazprints.tsa.dhs.gov>.
- 2) The individual must be applying for an HME in a State listed below. Due to statutes and licensing processes that are specific to the individual States, not all States are able to offer comparability. Individuals applying for an HME STA based on a comparable TWIC STA must determine whether the State in which they are applying offers this comparability. As of February 27, 2012, the following 11 States and the District of Columbia can offer this comparability:

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Arizona | 7. Nebraska |
| 2. California | 8. North Carolina |
| 3. Delaware | 9. Oregon |
| 4. District of Columbia | 10. South Dakota |
| 5. Hawaii | 11. Utah |
| 6. Missouri | 12. West Virginia |

Comparability – Application Fee:

Individuals who meet the requirements above and apply for an HME STA based on a comparable TWIC STA will pay a reduced HME STA application fee of \$67.00. For individuals licensed in the 38 States and the District of Columbia that use the TSA-contracted agent for this program, the current application fee is \$89.25 (this fee covers the HME STA only, and States may charge additional fees for the HME application process such as testing and license issuance). The reduced fee for an HME STA application based on a comparable TWIC STA will be \$67.00.

Applicants retain the option to apply for a full STA (which includes in-person enrollment and fingerprint submission) and pay the full fee, even if they already have a valid STA associated with a TWIC. Applicants should consider the expiration date of their current TWIC STA to determine if it is more cost- and time-effective to apply for a full or a comparable/reduced fee HME STA.