

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) [released a report this week](#) criticizing the Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Worker Identification Credential pilot program, calling it unreliable and characterizing DHS's 2012 TWIC report to Congress, which was intended to inform policy-making, as unreliable and incomplete.

GAO reports that DHS's TWIC pilot program has suffered from a lack of proper planning and insufficient performance standards. The data DHS used to assess the value of deploying electronic TWIC readers at secure facilities was poorly collected, according to the report, and pointedly, GAO concludes that DHS has failed to demonstrate whether implementing the TWIC program will improve maritime security.

GAO recommends that "Congress should halt DHS's efforts to promulgate a final regulation until the successful completion of a security assessment of the effectiveness of using TWIC."

[As AAPA has previously noted](#), comments on the Coast Guard's [proposed TWIC reader rule](#) may be submitted until June 20, 2013, by the following means:

(1) *Internet*: at the Federal eRulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

(2) *Mail*: Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590

(3) *Fax*: 202-493-2251

(4) *Delivery*: Room W12-140 on the Ground Floor of the West Building, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

AAPA plans to submit comments for the record and will notify our members of further updates on this issue.