

**TITLE 33 - NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS**  
**CHAPTER 25 - PORTS AND WATERWAYS SAFETY PROGRAM**

**§ 1225. Waterfront safety**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary may take such action as is necessary to—

- (1) prevent damage to, or the destruction of, any bridge or other structure on or in the navigable waters of the United States, or any land structure or shore area immediately adjacent to such waters; and
- (2) protect the navigable waters and the resources therein from harm resulting from vessel or structure damage, destruction, or loss. Such action may include, but need not be limited to—
  - (A) establishing procedures, measures, and standards for the handling, loading, unloading, storage, stowage, and movement on the structure (including the emergency removal, control, and disposition) of explosives or other dangerous articles and substances, including oil or hazardous material as those terms are defined in section 2101 of title 46;
  - (B) prescribing minimum safety equipment requirements for the structure to assure adequate protection from fire, explosion, natural disaster, and other serious accidents or casualties;
  - (C) establishing water or waterfront safety zones, or other measures for limited, controlled, or conditional access and activity when necessary for the protection of any vessel, structure, waters, or shore area; and
  - (D) establishing procedures for examination to assure compliance with the requirements prescribed under this section.

**(b) State law**

Nothing contained in this section, with respect to structures, prohibits a State or political subdivision thereof from prescribing higher safety equipment requirements or safety standards than those which may be prescribed by regulations hereunder.

(Pub. L. 92–340, § 6, formerly title I, § 105, July 10, 1972, 86 Stat. 427; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 95–474, § 2, Oct. 17, 1978, 92 Stat. 1475.)

**Codification**

In subsec. (a)(2)(A), “section 2101 of title 46” substituted for “section 4417a of the Revised Statutes [46 U.S.C. 391a]” on authority of Pub. L. 98–89, § 2(b), Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 598, section 1 of which enacted Title 46, Shipping.

**Amendments**

1978—Pub. L. 95–474 substituted provisions relating to waterfront safety for provision requiring the Secretary to report to Congress within one year his recommendations for legislation to achieve coordination between functions authorized under Pub. L. 92–340 and the functions of any other agencies and to eliminate duplication of these functions.