



National Infrastructure Protection Plan

Maritime Transportation Mode

The Maritime Transportation Mode is a subsector of the Transportation Systems Sector, one of 18 critical infrastructure sectors established under the authority of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7). Each sector is managed by a Sector-Specific Agency (SSA) that provides sector-level performance feedback to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to enable assessments of national, cross-sector critical infrastructure protection and resilience programs. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP), each SSA is responsible for developing and implementing a Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) in collaboration with public and private sector partners, and for encouraging the development of appropriate information-sharing and analysis mechanisms. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is designated as the SSA for the Maritime Transportation Mode.

Sector Overview

The Marine Transportation System (MTS) is a complex system that is both geographically and physically diverse in character and operation. It includes over 95,000 miles of coastline, 361 ports, over 25,000 miles of navigable waterways, 3.4 million square miles of Exclusive Economic Zones, and thousands of dams, levees, locks, and bridges. The Maritime Transportation Mode is one of the six modes within the Transportation Systems Sector.

Sector Partnerships

The security of the maritime domain and its associated infrastructure depends on the collective and collaborative efforts of government and the private sector; these efforts are often guided by regulation, precedent, or established process. Existing mechanisms for sharing information include Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs), Homeport, Area Maritime Security Committees, Port Readiness Committees, Carrier and Trade Support Groups,

U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, and Homeland Security Information Network-Critical Sectors. The Maritime ISAC is unique from other sectors and is managed by the USCG Office of Port Facility Activities. These mechanisms facilitate the sharing of security, critical infrastructure, and threat information with government and industry maritime security and critical infrastructure partners. The Transportation Systems Sector utilizes modal representation and subject matter experts as part of the NIPP partnership framework. Federal Maritime representatives include the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, Justice, State, and Transportation, as well as other DHS component agencies.

Critical Infrastructure Protection Challenges

The unique qualities of the mode present extraordinarily complex challenges for those charged with the security of the MTS, including maritime critical infrastructure assets and systems. From a system-of-systems perspective, the

MTS is a network of maritime operations that interface with shoreside operations at intermodal connections and as part of global supply chains or domestic commercial operations. The various operations within the MTS network have components that include vessels; port facilities; waterways and waterway infrastructure; railroads; bridges; highways; tunnels; intermodal physical, cyber, and human connections; and users. The United States, like many other nations, works toward maintaining a balance between safe, secure ports and facilitating trade to promote economic growth.

Risk Mitigation Activities and Priority Programs

Risk Mitigation Activities (RMAs) contribute to the reduction of risk in the maritime domain across physical, cyber, and human risk elements. RMAs are also linked to the goals identified by the Transportation Systems Sector and Maritime Transportation Mode.

Modal goals include:

- Prevent and deter acts of terrorism using, or against, the MTS;
- Enhance the all-hazard preparedness and resilience of the MTS to safeguard U.S. national interests;
- Maximize cost-effectiveness for the limited resources of the MTS; and
- Contribute to the improvement of sector situational awareness, understanding, and collaboration.

Four RMA categories include:

- Risk Reduction Tools and Methods;
- Lead and Conduct Effective Maritime Security and Response Operations;
- Maritime Domain Awareness; and
- Create and Oversee an Effective Maritime Security Regime.

Information-sharing programs and activities cascade across all four RMAs. The programs and initiatives may also support other areas within their multi-mission agencies and respective departments. An extensive list of programs and initiatives that are linked with sector goals may be found in the Transportation Systems SSP, Annex B-Maritime.

For questions or more information, please contact NIPP@dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/criticalinfrastructure.



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