

Seaports and Security

Safe and secure seaport facilities are fundamental to protecting our borders and moving goods

Security is one of the highest priorities for the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)-member seaports throughout the Western Hemisphere. Protecting the people and freight that move through seaports and surrounding communities is essential to keeping seaports safe and open for business. AAPA and its members collaborate with both government officials and private-sector security experts to maintain and enhance seaport security.

A Shared Responsibility

Protecting seaport borders is a responsibility shared by government, port authorities and private industry.

- Seaports work closely with the government entities responsible for inspecting and approving ships, cargo and passengers and ensuring safe and secure access to and from seaport facilities.
- In 2005, the governments of the U.S., Canada and Mexico signed a Security and Prosperity Partnership that will support collaboration regarding the enhancement of seaport and vessel security and the development of compatible regulatory and operational systems.
- Transport Canada and the U.S. Coast Guard have implemented a pilot project to streamline both cruise ship inspections and check-in procedures.
- In the U.S., seaports collaborate with the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Borders Protection and Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.
- Puerto Cortes in Honduras is one of three ports in the world currently scanning all inbound and outbound shipments for nuclear substances — leading the way in port container security.

A Necessary Investment

Whether it's securing government funding or purchasing the latest technology, investing in seaport security will keep people, goods, equipment and infrastructure safe and secure.

- Increased government funding and grants are vital to keeping seaports safe, secure and open.
- Seaports are investing more than one billion dollars annually in security-related infrastructure, equipment, operations, maintenance, personnel and training.
- Through the SAFE Port Act, the U.S. Congress authorized \$400 million annually in spending for the Department of Homeland Security Port Security Grant program.
- U.S. federal grants will help ports install the required Transportation Worker Identification Credential readers (TWIC) at maritime facilities, as well assist with funding other security infrastructure needs.
- Transport Canada has committed \$115 million over three years to assist ports and marine facilities with improving security.