

(B) may take action under section 624 of this title if necessary to address any substantiated violation of a requirement under this subchapter identified in the report.

(5) Due process for facility owner or operator

(A) In general

If, upon the review described in paragraph (4), the Secretary determines that a violation of a provision of this subchapter, or a regulation prescribed under this subchapter, has occurred, the Secretary may—

- (i) institute a civil enforcement under section 624(a) of this title; or
- (ii) if the Secretary makes the determination under section 624(c) of this title, issue an emergency order.

(B) Written orders

The action of the Secretary under paragraph (4) shall be in a written form that—

- (i) describes the violation;
- (ii) states the authority under which the Secretary is proceeding; and
- (iii) describes the standards and procedures for obtaining relief from the order.

(C) Opportunity for review

After taking action under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall provide for review of the action if a petition for review is filed within 20 calendar days of the date of issuance of the order for the action.

(D) Expiration of effectiveness of order

If a petition for review of an action is filed under subparagraph (C) and the review under that subparagraph is not completed by the end of the 30-day period beginning on the date the petition is filed, the action shall cease to be effective at the end of such period unless the Secretary determines, in writing, that the violation providing a basis for the action continues to exist.

(6) Retaliation prohibited

(A) In general

An owner or operator of a chemical facility of interest or agent thereof may not discharge an employee or otherwise discriminate against an employee with respect to the compensation provided to, or terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of, the employee because the employee (or an individual acting pursuant to a request of the employee) submitted a report under paragraph (1).

(B) Exception

An employee shall not be entitled to the protections under this section if the employee—

- (i) knowingly and willfully makes any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or
- (ii) uses any false writing or document knowing the writing or document contains any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

(b) Protected disclosures

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to limit the right of an individual to make any disclosure—

(1) protected or authorized under section 2302(b)(8) or 7211 of title 5;

(2) protected under any other Federal or State law that shields the disclosing individual against retaliation or discrimination for having made the disclosure in the public interest; or

(3) to the Special Counsel of an agency, the inspector general of an agency, or any other employee designated by the head of an agency to receive disclosures similar to the disclosures described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) Publication of rights

The Secretary, in partnership with industry associations and labor organizations, shall make publicly available both physically and online the rights that an individual who discloses information, including security-sensitive information, regarding problems, deficiencies, or vulnerabilities at a covered chemical facility would have under Federal whistleblower protection laws or this subchapter.

(d) Protected information

All information contained in a report made under this subsection (a)¹ shall be protected in accordance with section 623 of this title.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title XXI, §2105, as added Pub. L. 113-254, §2(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2914.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 5 of Pub. L. 113-254, see Effective and Termination Dates note below.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES

Section effective on the date that is 30 days after Dec. 18, 2014, and authority provided under this section to terminate on the date that is 5 years and 3 months after such effective date, see sections 4(a) and 5 of Pub. L. 113-254, set out as notes under section 621 of this title.

§ 626. Relationship to other laws

(a) Other Federal laws

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to supersede, amend, alter, or affect any Federal law that—

(1) regulates (including by requiring information to be submitted or made available) the manufacture, distribution in commerce, use, handling, sale, other treatment, or disposal of chemical substances or mixtures; or

(2) authorizes or requires the disclosure of any record or information obtained from a chemical facility under any law other than this subchapter.

(b) States and political subdivisions

This subchapter shall not preclude or deny any right of any State or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any regulation, requirement, or standard of performance with respect to chemical facility security that is more stringent than a regulation, requirement, or standard of performance issued under this section, or otherwise impair any right or jurisdiction of

¹ So in original.

any State with respect to chemical facilities within that State, unless there is an actual conflict between this section and the law of that State.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title XXI, §2106, as added Pub. L. 113–254, §2(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2915.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, see Effective and Termination Dates note below.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES

Section effective on the date that is 30 days after Dec. 18, 2014, and authority provided under this section to terminate on the date that is 5 years and 3 months after such effective date, see sections 4(a) and 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, set out as notes under section 621 of this title.

§ 627. CFATS regulations

(a) General authority

The Secretary may, in accordance with chapter 5 of title 5, promulgate regulations or amend existing CFATS regulations to implement the provisions under this subchapter.

(b) Existing CFATS regulations

(1) In general

Notwithstanding section 4(b) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, each existing CFATS regulation shall remain in effect unless the Secretary amends, consolidates, or repeals the regulation.

(2) Repeal

Not later than 30 days after December 18, 2014, the Secretary shall repeal any existing CFATS regulation that the Secretary determines is duplicative of, or conflicts with, this subchapter.

(c) Authority

The Secretary shall exclusively rely upon authority provided under this subchapter in—

- (1) determining compliance with this subchapter;
- (2) identifying chemicals of interest; and
- (3) determining security risk associated with a chemical facility.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title XXI, §2107, as added Pub. L. 113–254, §2(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2916.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, see Effective and Termination Dates note below.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 4(b) of the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is section 4(b) of Pub. L. 113–254, Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2919, which repealed section 550 of Pub. L. 109–295, formerly set out as a Regulations note under section 121 of this title, effective as of the date that is 30 days after Dec. 18, 2014.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES

Section effective on the date that is 30 days after Dec. 18, 2014, and authority provided under this section to terminate on the date that is 5 years and 3 months after such effective date, see sections 4(a) and 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, set out as notes under section 621 of this title.

§ 628. Small covered chemical facilities

(a) Definition

In this section, the term “small covered chemical facility” means a covered chemical facility that—

- (1) has fewer than 100 employees employed at the covered chemical facility; and
- (2) is owned and operated by a small business concern (as defined in section 632 of title 15).

(b) Assistance to facilities

The Secretary may provide guidance and, as appropriate, tools, methodologies, or computer software, to assist small covered chemical facilities in developing the physical security, cybersecurity, recordkeeping, and reporting procedures required under this subchapter.

(c) Report

The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on best practices that may assist small covered chemical facilities in development of physical security best practices.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title XXI, §2108, as added Pub. L. 113–254, §2(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2916.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, see Effective and Termination Dates note below.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES

Section effective on the date that is 30 days after Dec. 18, 2014, and authority provided under this section to terminate on the date that is 5 years and 3 months after such effective date, see sections 4(a) and 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, set out as notes under section 621 of this title.

§ 629. Outreach to chemical facilities of interest

Not later than 90 days after December 18, 2014, the Secretary shall establish an outreach implementation plan, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal and State agencies, relevant business associations, and public and private labor organizations, to—

- (1) identify chemical facilities of interest; and
- (2) make available compliance assistance materials and information on education and training.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title XXI, §2109, as added Pub. L. 113–254, §2(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 2916.)

TERMINATION OF SECTION

For termination of section by section 5 of Pub. L. 113–254, see Effective and Termination Dates note below.