

The CFATS Program

Under the CFATS program, the Department of Homeland Security works with facilities that are assessed to be at high risk of terrorist attack or exploitation due to their holdings of certain chemicals. These high-risk facilities meet requirements to develop and implement security plans designed to address risk-based performance standards and reduce the threat of terrorism.

CFATS is the first DHS regulatory program focused specifically on security at high-risk chemical facilities. DHS determines a facility's initial risk profile by requiring facilities in possession of any Chemical of Interest (COI) in an amount at or above specific threshold quantities or concentrations to complete a risk assessment, known as a Top-Screen questionnaire.

If DHS determines that a facility is high-risk, the facility must submit for approval a Site Security Plan or an Alternative Security Program that includes security measures to meet applicable risk-based performance standards established by DHS. Following approval, facilities enter into a regular cycle of compliance inspections.



Questions?

For more information, contact
CFATS Help Desk: 1-866-323-2957
or csat@dhs.gov
or visit us at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity

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Homeland
Security

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS)

*Securing America's Highest-Risk
Chemical Infrastructure*

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Why Chemical Facility Security?

Chemicals are vital to our national economy. They are used in manufacturing, in research, and even at vineyards. When used as intended, these chemicals better our lives; however, in the wrong hands, some of these chemicals can also be used for great harm. A successful attack on certain chemical facilities could cause a large number of deaths and injuries, and many facilities house chemicals that can be stolen or diverted for terrorist use elsewhere.

Through the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, America's highest-risk chemical facilities work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to fulfill requirements to develop Site Security Plans that reduce the risk of a successful terrorist attack.



Chemical Facilities Come in All Shapes and Sizes

More than 40,000 facilities—ranging from oil refineries and microchip manufacturers, to fisheries and universities—have reported their holdings of potentially dangerous chemicals to the Department of Homeland Security. Facilities that are required to comply with at least some provisions of the CFATS regulation fall into many categories and are operated by large companies, small businesses, government agencies, and many other types of entities.

What Are Chemicals of Interest (COI)?

The CFATS regulation lists more than 300 “Chemicals of Interest” that, if held in specified quantities or concentrations, trigger initial reporting requirements under CFATS.

Does CFATS Apply to Your Facility?

Any facility that maintains holdings of Chemicals of Interest at or above the quantities and concentrations specified in the regulation must comply with applicable CFATS requirements. An online screening process quickly determines whether your facility is considered “high-risk” by DHS. Your first step is to review the CFATS “Appendix A” list of chemicals of interest, which can be found at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity. Certain facilities (e.g., those regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard) are exempt from CFATS requirements.



Top-Screen

If CFATS applies, your facility must complete and submit to DHS a risk assessment, known as a Top-Screen questionnaire, within 60 calendar days of coming into possession of the COI.

Please visit www.dhs.gov/csat-top-screen for more information on how to submit a Top-Screen.

DHS will review your facility's Top-Screen to make a determination about whether or not your facility is considered “high-risk.”

Site Security Plans and Risk-Based Performance Standards

Upon receiving confirmation of its high-risk status, a facility must develop a Site Security Plan that addresses 18 risk-based performance standards. Following an authorization inspection, these plans are submitted for DHS approval.



Inspections Process

The Department inspects high-risk chemical facilities to ensure the implementation of Site Security Plans. Chemical Security Inspectors are located in communities across the country and are available to engage with interested organizations and to provide compliance assistance to facilities at any stage in the CFATS process.



Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI)

CVI is an information-protection category designed to protect information developed or maintained by chemical facilities under the CFATS regulation. Access to CVI requires proper training and the “need-to-know.” CVI training can be accessed at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity.

Compliance Assistance and Outreach

- ⇒ To request a CFATS presentation or a Compliance Assistance Visit (CAV), you may submit a request through the program website, located at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity, or by e-mailing DHS at CFATS@hq.dhs.gov.
- ⇒ **The CSAT Help Desk** provides timely support to chemical facility owners and operators. It can be reached at 866-323-2957, or at csat@dhs.gov.
- ⇒ To submit a confidential report regarding a potential CFATS violation, contact the **CFATS Chemical Facility Security Tip Line**, 877-394-4347 (877-FYI 4 DHS), or email CFATSTips@hq.dhs.gov.
- ⇒ **The CFATS Knowledge Center** is an online repository of Frequently Asked Questions, articles, and documents relating to CFATS. Visit csat-help.dhs.gov/.