



Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: Ammonium Nitrate (AN)



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If a facility possesses ammonium nitrate (AN)—Chemical Abstracts Service Number (CAS #) 6484-52-2—the facility may be required to report it to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

To reduce the risk of more than 300 chemicals of interest (COI) from being weaponized, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency’s (CISA) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure appropriate security measures are in place.

Under CFATS, a chemical facility is “any establishment that possesses or plans to possess certain chemicals, at any relevant point in time ...” and can be a large company or a single individual. If in possession of a COI at or above the screening threshold quantity (STQ) and minimum concentration listed in Appendix A of the CFATS regulation, facilities must report those chemicals to CISA regardless of how long the facility possesses COI.

AN is a reportable COI under CFATS with two different listings in Appendix A of the CFATS regulation (see cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list).

COI	Security Issue	STQ	Concentration
Ammonium nitrate, [with more than 0.2 percent combustible substances, including any organic substance calculated as carbon, to the exclusion of any other added substance]	Release – Explosive	5,000 lb	ACG
	Theft – Explosive	400 lb	ACG
Ammonium nitrate, solid [nitrogen concentration of 23% nitrogen or greater]	Theft – Explosive/Improvised Explosive Device Precursor (IEDP)	2000 lb	33.00%

Is the AN classified as a Department of Transportation (DOT) Division 1.1 explosive? All COI listed under the release-explosive and theft/diversion-explosive security issues in Appendix A are DOT Division 1.1 explosives. If the AN mixture is **not** classified as a DOT Division 1.1 explosive, the facility does not need to count the AN toward the STQ for the first listing. However, it may fall under the second listing.

What does ACG mean? A Commercial Grade (ACG) means a chemical can be found for sale under the name of the COI or presents a similar level of risk as that COI. See CFATS Advisory Opinion 2016-002 (cisa.gov/publication/cfats-ao-2016-002) for more information on how CISA interprets ACG.

Is the AN in transportation packaging? AN only needs to be counted toward the STQ for the theft/diversion security issue if the COI is in transportation packaging as defined in 49 CFR § 171.8. See CFATS Advisory Opinion 2016-003 (cisa.gov/publication/cfats-ao-2016-003) for more information on transportation packaging.

Is the AN mixture solid? If the mixture is solid (i.e., not a liquid) and not a DOT Division 1.1 explosive, facilities must count solid AN toward the STQ of the second listing if the concentration of AN in the mixture is at or above 33 percent. Exploding targets may fall under this listing.

CFATS First Steps: If a facility possesses AN in quantities that meet or exceed the STQ and concentration, the facility has 60 days from the time the facility comes into possession to report those chemicals via an online survey called a Top-Screen. **Get started** by visiting cisa.gov/cfats-process to learn more about how to comply with CFATS.

Contact the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Help Desk for technical assistance at 1-866-323-2957 or at CSAT@hq.dhs.gov.

Agricultural Production Facilities: The agricultural production facility extension may apply to facilities that use solid AN for direct treatment or application to their crops, feed, land, livestock, or other areas of the facility. Visit cisa.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities to learn more.