



IT Security



Supply Chain



OT Security



Insider Threat



Physical Security



Interoperable Communications

# Protect Chemicals at Warehouse, Storage, and Distribution Facilities From Use in a Terrorist Attack



DEFEND TODAY,  
SECURE TOMORROW

## Overview

Regardless of whether shipments are destined for long-term, short-term, or temporary storage, warehouses, storage facilities, and distribution centers serve a critical role in the safe and secure storage, protection, and distribution of hazardous chemicals—such as compressed gases, toxics, oxidizers, corrosives, water-reactive substances, explosives, and flammables. In the wrong hands, however, some of these same chemicals can be used for great harm.

## What Is CFATS?

In 2006, Congress authorized the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program. Managed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the CFATS program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place that reduce the risk of certain hazardous chemicals being weaponized.

Appendix A of the CFATS regulation lists more than 300 chemicals of interest (COI) and their respective screening threshold quantity (STQ), concentration, and security issues. If released, stolen or diverted, and/or used as a contaminant, these COI have the potential to cause significant loss of human life and/or health consequences. Any individual or facility in possession of COI that meets or exceeds the STQ and concentration must report their holdings to CISA via an online survey called a Top-Screen.

## COI Commonly Found in Warehouse, Storage, and Distribution Facilities

COI at warehouses, storage facilities, and distribution centers may include a wide variety of different chemicals with different security concerns, including compressed gases, toxics, oxidizers, corrosives, water-reactive substances, explosives, explosive precursors, and flammables. Some of the most common COI include, but are not limited to:

- Aluminum (powder)
- Ammonia (anhydrous)
- Butane
- Chlorine
- Hydrogen peroxide (conc. of at least 35%)
- Nitric acid
- Potassium nitrate
- Propane
- Sodium nitrate
- Sulfur dioxide (anhydrous)

Safety data sheets (SDS), material safety data sheets (MSDS), or product safety data sheets (PSDS) provide vital information for chemicals and chemical mixtures, including storage considerations, incident response procedures, and chemical mixture concentrations.

**If a facility possesses any COI at or above the STQ listed in Appendix A, it must submit a Top-Screen within 60 days of coming into possession of the COI. See 6 CFR § 27.210(a)(1)(i).**

Review the Appendix A COI List at [cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list](https://cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list).

## A Commercial Grade (ACG) and A Placarded Amount (APA)

Some COI listed in Appendix A do not have specific numerical minimum concentrations, but must be reported to CISA if the COI meet certain criteria.

ACG chemicals must be reported if possessed at or above STQ and at any concentration that can be found for sale under the name of the COI, or that present a similar level of risk as that COI. See CFATS Advisory Opinion 2016-002 for more information ([cisa.gov/publication/cfats-ao-2016-002](https://cisa.gov/publication/cfats-ao-2016-002)).

APA means a COI with a sabotage/contamination security concern that is shipped and must be placarded for shipment pursuant to the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials regulation (subpart F of 49 CFR Part 172) must be reported to CISA. See 6 CFR § 27.203(d).

## CFATS Exclusions

Certain facilities are excluded from the CFATS regulation by statute (6 USC § 621(4)) if the facility is:

- A Public Water System under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- A Treatment Works under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.
- Regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard under the Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA).
- Subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or by a State with an NRC agreement.
- Owned or operated by the Department of Defense or Energy.

Additionally, truck terminals and railroad facilities are not regulated under CFATS. See FAQs #1178 and #1789 on the CFATS Knowledge Center ([csat-help.dhs.gov](https://csat-help.dhs.gov)) for more information.

## What's Next?

If a facility possesses COI at or above STQ and is not statutorily excluded from CFATS, the next steps are:

- Complete the Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI) Authorized User training to begin the process of reporting COI: [cisa.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training](https://cisa.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training).
- Register for a Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) account to access the Top-Screen survey: [csat-registration.dhs.gov](https://csat-registration.dhs.gov).
- Fill out a Top-Screen in CSAT to report your COI holdings to CISA: [csat.dhs.gov/industry](https://csat.dhs.gov/industry).
- Based on the information provided, CISA assesses the overall risk of the facility.
- Facilities assessed as "high-risk" are required to submit a Security Vulnerability Assessment and security plan tailored to the unique security challenges and risks associated with their COI.

More than 150 CISA Chemical Security Inspectors are located nationwide to assist high-risk facilities identify and implement security measures that comply with the CFATS regulation.

## CFATS Enforcement Actions

CISA is committed to helping facility personnel understand and comply with CFATS by providing technical assistance or onsite consultation. However, CISA has the authority to enforce compliance with the program. This can include issuing civil monetary penalties to facilities that fail to submit a Top-Screen or that are found to be in violation of any aspect of the CFATS regulations (6 USC § 624). Learn more at [cisa.gov/cfats-enforcement](https://cisa.gov/cfats-enforcement).

## Tools and Resources

- CFATS Resources: [cisa.gov/cfats-resources](https://cisa.gov/cfats-resources)
- CFATS Process: [cisa.gov/cfats-process](https://cisa.gov/cfats-process)
- CFATS Appendix A COI: [cisa.gov/appendix-chemicals-interest](https://cisa.gov/appendix-chemicals-interest)
- Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT): [cisa.gov/chemical-security-assessment-tool](https://cisa.gov/chemical-security-assessment-tool)
- Request a Compliance Assistance Visit: [cisa.gov/request-compliance-assistance-visit](https://cisa.gov/request-compliance-assistance-visit)
- CFATS Knowledge Center: [csat-help.dhs.gov](https://csat-help.dhs.gov)
- CSAT Help Desk (technical assistance): Call 1-866-323-2957 or email [csat@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:csat@hq.dhs.gov)