



Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: Agricultural Production Facilities



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Overview

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) granted a time extension for farmers and other agricultural facilities that are required to report certain hazardous chemicals under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program.

What Is CFATS?

In 2006, Congress authorized 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 facilities to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of chemicals of interest (COI) being weaponized.



Appendix A of the CFATS regulation lists more than 300 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 those chemicals to CISA through an online survey called a Top-Screen.

Agricultural Production Facilities Extension

On January 9, 2008, the Department published a letter granting certain farmers and other agricultural users a time extension for reporting their COI holdings and submitting a Top-Screen survey (see 73 FR 1640). Unless otherwise notified by CISA, the letter states that agricultural facilities do not have to report their COI if they use them solely:

- In preparation for the treatment of crops, feed, land, livestock, or other areas of an agricultural production facility.
- During application to, or treatment of, crops, feed, land, livestock, or other areas of an agricultural production facility.

This extension may apply to facilities such as:

- Farms (e.g., crop, fruit, nut, and vegetable)
- Ranches and rangeland
- Poultry, dairy, and equine facilities
- Turf grass growers
- Golf courses
- Nurseries
- Floricultural operations
- Public and private parks

When the Extension Does Not Apply

The extension **does not** apply to agricultural production facilities that use a COI at or above the applicable STQ for purposes other than those listed above. For example:

- If a facility uses a COI for fuel, storage, or distribution purposes.
- If a commercial application service is using COI for distribution.
- If the facility is a fishery and/or hatchery, as fish are not considered livestock.
- If an agricultural facility stores and/or distributes a COI.
- If a park uses chlorine for an onsite pool.
- If an agricultural facility uses propane for heating.
- If a facility uses chlorine, hydrogen peroxide, or sulfur dioxide for the cleaning and treatment of equipment and products, such as at wineries, breweries, or food manufacturers.
- If a facility utilizes phosphine or other COI for fumigation purposes.

If the agricultural production facility extension does not apply to your facility, you must submit a Top-Screen within 60 days of coming into possession of a COI. See 6 CFR § 27.210(a)(1)(i).

Tools and Resources

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that hazardous chemicals do not fall into the wrong hands. CISA is working with facilities across the country to keep our communities safe and secure. When in doubt, contact CISA to see whether or not you qualify for the agricultural production facility extension.

- Agricultural Production Facilities Extension Federal Register Notice (73 FR 1640): [federalregister.gov/d/E8-199](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/E8-199)
- CFATS Resources: [cisa.gov/cfats-resources](https://www.cisa.gov/cfats-resources)
- CFATS Process: [cisa.gov/cfats-process](https://www.cisa.gov/cfats-process)
- CFATS Appendix A COI List: [cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list)
- Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Top-Screen: [cisa.gov/csat-top-screen](https://www.cisa.gov/csat-top-screen)
- CSAT Portal: csat.dhs.gov/industry
- Request a Compliance Assistance Visit: [cisa.gov/request-compliance-assistance-visit](https://www.cisa.gov/request-compliance-assistance-visit)
- CFATS Knowledge Center: csat-help.dhs.gov
- CSAT Help Desk (technical assistance): Call 1-866-323-2957 or email CSAT@hq.dhs.gov
- To report a possible CFATS violation, contact the CFATS Tip Line: Call 877-394-4347 (877-FYI 4 DHS) or email CFATSTips@hq.dhs.gov