



IT Security



Supply Chain



OT Security



Insider Threat



Physical Security



Interoperable Communications

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: First Steps



DEFEND TODAY,
SECURE TOMORROW

Overview

Chemicals are vital to the economy. They are used to develop medicines, provide refrigeration for food, manufacture fuel for vehicles, and build the microchips that run smartphones. However, in the hands of a terrorist, some chemicals could potentially be 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 security measures are in place to reduce the risk of certain hazardous chemicals being weaponized. High-risk facilities are assigned to one of four risk-based tiers and must develop a security plan tailored to the tier level and unique circumstances. If a facility possesses any chemicals, complete the following steps to determine if there are chemicals of interest (COI) that must be reported to CISA as required by the CFATS regulation.

Check For Chemicals of Interest (COI)

In the CFATS program, a chemical facility is any establishment—from a large facility to an individual person—that possesses or plans to possess any COI at or above a specified concentration and screening threshold quantity (STQ). If a facility possesses any chemicals, review Appendix A of the CFATS regulation, which lists more than 300 COI and the respective STQ, concentration, and security issues.

- Review the Appendix A COI list: [cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list).
- Locate any COI that is or will be present at the facility.
- Review the STQ and concentrations for each COI.
- If the facility possesses COI that meets or exceeds the STQ, the facility has 60 days from the time of possession to report its holdings via an online survey called a Top-Screen, unless an extension or exclusion applies. This requirement to submit a Top-Screen applies regardless of how long the facility possesses the COI.



Exclusions and Extensions

Certain facilities are excluded from the CFATS regulation by statute if it 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).
- Regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) or by a state with an NRC agreement.
- Owned or operated by the Department of Defense or Energy.

Agricultural production facilities that use COI solely on crops, feed, land, livestock, or poultry have been granted an indefinite time extension to report COI. Read the CFATS Agricultural Production Facilities fact sheet to learn more about this extension: [cisa.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities](https://www.cisa.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities).

Chemical-Terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI) Training

To begin the process of reporting COI to CISA, facility personnel designated by the facility will need to complete the CVI Authorized User Training and submit a CVI Authorized User application.

- Complete the training and application: cisa.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training.
- CISA will send an email to confirm each individual's status and provide a unique CVI Authorized User number and certificate.

Register to Access the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT)

CSAT is a secure, web-based system accessible to CVI-certified individuals that houses the Top-Screen survey and other CFATS-related applications. Facility personnel that have received a unique CVI Authorized User number must register the facility to access CSAT.

- Review the CSAT Portal User Manual: cisa.gov/publication/csats-portal-user-manual.
- Register the facility for a user identification and password: csat-registration.dhs.gov.
- CISA will validate the facility's registration and notify CVI-certified facility personnel on how to access CSAT.

Submit a Top-Screen

After logging in to CSAT, the facility will be able to submit a Top-Screen.

- Review the CSAT Top-Screen Instructions: cisa.gov/publication/csats-ts-instructions.
- Log in to CSAT to submit a Top-Screen: csat.dhs.gov/industry.
- After submitting a Top-Screen, CISA will determine if the facility is high-risk using a risk tiering methodology. CISA will notify the facility about the facility's status.
- CFATS-covered facilities must develop a security plan.

Failure to Submit a Top-Screen

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.

Tools and Resources

- CFATS Resources: cisa.gov/cfats-resources
- CFATS Process: cisa.gov/cfats-process
- Appendix A COI: cisa.gov/appendix-chemicals-interest
- CVI: cisa.gov/chemical-terrorism-vulnerability-information
- Request a CFATS Presentation: cisa.gov/request-cfats-presentation
- Request a Compliance Assistance Visit: 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