

FACT SHEET

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standard

Chemicals are vital to our economy. They are used to develop medicines that maintain our health, provide refrigeration for our food supply, manufacture fuel for our vehicles and build the microchip that runs our smartphones. But in the hands of a terrorist, chemicals could potentially be used to cause a significant number of deaths and injuries. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, through the Infrastructure Security Compliance Division (ISCD), administers the CFATS program by working with facilities to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce the risks associated with certain hazardous chemicals, and prevent them from being exploited in an attack.

What is CFATS?

CFATS is a regulatory program (6 CFR Part 27) established in 2007 that addresses chemical security by identifying and regulating high-risk facilities that possess certain chemicals of interest (COI) at specific concentrations and quantities. In 2014, Congress reauthorized and amended the program through the Protecting and Securing Chemical Facilities from Terrorist Attacks Act of 2014 (6 U.S.C. § 621, et seq). The CFATS regulation applies to facilities across many industries, including:

- Chemical manufacturing, storage, and distribution
- Energy and utilities
- Agriculture and food
- Explosives
- Mining
- Electronics
- Plastics
- Universities and laboratories
- Paint and coatings
- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals

Appendix A and Chemicals of Interest

[Appendix A of the CFATS regulation](#) (6 CFR Part 27) lists more than 300 COI and their respective screening threshold quantities (STQ). These COI are categorized into three main security issues.

Release: Toxic, flammable, or explosive chemicals or materials that can be released at a facility.

Theft or Diversion: Chemicals or materials that, if stolen or diverted, can be converted into weapons using simple chemistry, equipment, or techniques.

Sabotage: Chemicals or materials that can be mixed with readily available material.

Any facility that meets or exceeds the STQ for any COI listed in Appendix A is required to report possession of those chemicals to DHS via an online questionnaire called a Top-Screen.

CFATS at the University of Utah

CFATS regulations define a facility as any establishment that possesses or plans to possess a quantity of a DHS COI at or above the established STQ. The University defines a facility as any University owned building. OEHS periodically reviews chemical inventories associated with facilities (buildings) on campus via the laboratory management system to determine whether or not there are facilities which possess COI at or above the STQ.

Users of COI are encouraged to maintain inventory levels well below the STQ. Inventory levels in excess of the STQ will require submission of a top screen to DHS. DHS reviews top-screen information and determines whether or not a facility is a "high risk facility." High risk facilities are then assigned to a "tier," each tier has specific security requirements that must be in place such as a security vulnerability assessment, site security plan, etc. High risk facilities require an initial site inspection prior to approval of a security plan, as well as periodic security plan compliance inspections.

The University of Utah does not currently have any facilities identified as high risk.

Chemical Inventories

To ensure that the information used to determine compliance with CFATS regulations is correct and current it is imperative that chemical users on campus maintain a current inventory in the laboratory management system.



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