



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. However, in the hands of a terrorist, chemicals could potentially be used to cause a significant number of deaths or injuries. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administers the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program by working with high-risk chemical facilities to ensure they have security measures in place to reduce the security risks of certain hazardous chemicals of interest (COI), and prevent them from being exploited in an attack.

Under CFATS, a chemical facility is any establishment, from a large facility to an individual person, which possesses or plans to possess at any point in time, certain COI at or above a specified quantity or concentration. If you or your facility possess any COI at or above the Screening Threshold Quantity (STQ), you will need to complete the following steps to determine if you have to comply with the CFATS program.



Round bottom flasks and test tubes.  
(Source: DHS)

### □ Check Your Chemicals of Interest (COI)

If a facility has any chemicals in their possession, the first step is to check Appendix A of the CFATS regulation, which lists all of the COI and their STQ and minimum concentration for each security issue.

- View or download Appendix A at [www.dhs.gov/publication/appendix-final-rule](http://www.dhs.gov/publication/appendix-final-rule)
- Locate any COI that is or will be present at your facility
- Review the STQ and concentrations for each COI

If a facility possesses COI in quantities that meet or exceed the STQ, you have 60 days from the time you come into possession to report your holdings to DHS via an online survey called a Top-Screen. A facility must file a Top-Screen to report all COI holdings at or above the STQ regardless of how long the facility is in possession of the COI, unless an extension or exclusion applies to them.

### Exclusions and Extensions

Certain facilities are excluded from the CFATS regulation by statute if they are:

- Regulated by the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002
- A public water system, as defined in section 1401 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. § 300f)
- A treatment works, as defined in section 212 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1292)
- Owned or operated by the Department of Defense or Department of Energy
- Subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

A facility may also not have to report if it is an agricultural production facility that solely uses the COI on crops, feed, land, livestock or poultry. Read more about this extension at [www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities](http://www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities).

## □ Complete Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability (CVI) Information Training

In order to begin the process of reporting your chemical holdings to DHS, you need to complete CVI Authorized User Training and submit a CVI Authorized User application.

- Visit <https://cvi.dhs.gov> and complete the training and application
- DHS will notify you with an email providing a unique CVI Authorized User number and certificate to confirm your status

## □ Register Your Facility

The Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) is a secure, web-based system accessible to CVI-certified individuals where you can access the Top-Screen survey. If you are required to complete a Top-Screen, you must first register your facility to access CSAT.

- Review the CSAT User Guide, available at [www.dhs.gov/chemical-security-assessment-tool](http://www.dhs.gov/chemical-security-assessment-tool)
- Register your facility for a user identification and password
  - DHS will validate the facility's registration and notify you on how to access CSAT

## □ Submit a Top-Screen

After receiving access to CSAT, your facility will have access to the Top-Screen survey. DHS uses the information a facility submits in the Top-Screen to determine if the facility is considered high-risk and must develop a security plan. CSAT Top-Screen instructions can be found at [www.dhs.gov/publication/csat-ts-instructions](http://www.dhs.gov/publication/csat-ts-instructions).

## Tools and Resources

- Request a CFATS Presentation at your facility: [www.dhs.gov/request-cfats-presentation](http://www.dhs.gov/request-cfats-presentation)
- Request a Compliance Assistance Visit to learn about CFATS-related Authorization or Compliance Inspection: [www.dhs.gov/cfats-request-compliance-assistance-visit](http://www.dhs.gov/cfats-request-compliance-assistance-visit)
- Visit the CFATS Knowledge Center for an online repository of FAQs, articles, and more at [csat-help.dhs.gov/](http://csat-help.dhs.gov/)
- The Chemical Security Assessment Tool Help Desk provides timely support to chemical facility owners and operators. Call 1-866-323-2957 or email [csat@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:csat@hq.dhs.gov)

## Contact Information

For any questions, please contact [CFATS@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CFATS@hq.dhs.gov) or visit [www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity](http://www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity).