



IT Security



Supply Chain



OT Security



Insider Threat



Physical Security



Interoperable Communications

# Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) Program



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 microchip that runs smartphones. However, in the hands of a terrorist, some hazardous chemicals could potentially be weaponized.

## 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 security measures are in place to reduce the risk of certain hazardous chemicals being weaponized. 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.). After several short-term extensions, CFATS has been extended to July 2023.



The CFATS regulation applies to facilities across many industries, including, but not limited to:

- Chemical manufacturing, storage, and distribution
- Energy utilities
- Agriculture and food processors
- Explosives
- Pulp and paper
- Electronics
- Plastics
- Universities and laboratories
- Paint and coatings
- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals
- Metal production and finishing

## Appendix A and Chemicals of Interest (COI)

Appendix A of the CFATS regulation lists more than 300 COI and the respective screening threshold quantities (STQ) and concentrations. The 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 materials.

Any facility that manufactures, uses, stores, or distributes COI at or above the STQ and/or concentration is required to report those holdings to CISA via an online survey called a Top-Screen. Facilities must submit a Top-Screen within 60 days of coming into possession of the COI.

## CFATS Process

- If not statutorily excluded from CFATS,<sup>1</sup> read the Appendix A COI List: [cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list](https://cisa.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list).
- If the facility possesses COI at or above the STQ and concentration, submit a Top-Screen via the Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT): [cisa.gov/csats-top-screen](https://cisa.gov/csats-top-screen).
  - To access CSAT, personnel designated by the facility will need to complete the Chemical-terrorism Vulnerability Information (CVI) Authorized User training: [cisa.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training](https://cisa.gov/cvi-authorized-user-training).
  - Personnel designated by the facility that have received a unique CVI Authorized User number will need to register the facility in CSAT to get access to the Top-Screen survey: [csat-registration.dhs.gov](https://csat-registration.dhs.gov).
- Log in to CSAT to submit a Top-Screen: [csat.dhs.gov/industry](https://csat.dhs.gov/industry).
- CISA reviews Top-Screens using a risk-based methodology. Facilities are notified if it is:
  - Determined to be high-risk and assigned to Tier 1, 2, 3, or 4, with Tier 1 being the highest risk.
  - Determined not to be high-risk and, therefore, not covered under CFATS.
- High-risk, tiered facilities must submit a Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) and a Site Security Plan (SSP)—or an Alternative Security Program (ASP)—that meets the risk-based performance standards (RBPS): [cisa.gov/csats-site-security-plan](https://cisa.gov/csats-site-security-plan).
  - The 18 RBPS address security issues such as perimeter security, access control, personnel security, and cybersecurity, among others: [cisa.gov/risk-based-performance-standards](https://cisa.gov/risk-based-performance-standards).
  - The facility's security plan is tailored to its tier level, risk, and unique circumstances.
- CISA Chemical Security Inspectors perform an authorization inspection at the facility prior to approving the SSP or ASP: [cisa.gov/cfats-covered-chemical-facilities](https://cisa.gov/cfats-covered-chemical-facilities).
  - Once the plan is approved, inspectors conduct regular compliance inspections to verify the facility implements the agreed-upon security measures.

## 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)
- Request a CFATS presentation: [cisa.gov/request-cfats-presentation](https://cisa.gov/request-cfats-presentation)
- 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)

<sup>1</sup> Section 2101 of the CFATS Act of 2014 defined excluded facility as a facility regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002; a public water systems as defined in the Safe Drinking Water Act; a Treatment Works as defined in the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; a facility owned or operated by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy; and a facility subject to regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.