

Frequently Asked Questions

Department of Homeland Security Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards - CFATS

What is CFATS? “CFATS” stands for Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards. This is a newly promulgated regulation that establishes security requirements to help protect facilities that may be subject to a terrorist threat because of the chemicals they have on site.

Does CFATS apply to me? Maybe; CFATS list approximately 300 chemicals called Chemicals of Interest (COI). If your facility uses, manufactures, stores or handles any of these chemicals in quantities above a DHS established threshold, then your facility must begin the formal process of submitting information to DHS so they can determine the degree to which your facility is subject to the regulations.

What does the CFATS regulation require?

- a) First: facilities that are subject to CFATS (see #2) must complete a DHS questionnaire called a Top Screen. This questionnaire collects information to aid DHS in clarifying whether your facility must comply with the remaining provisions of CFATS.
- b) Second: Based on your submitted information, DHS issues a preliminary ranking for your facility. These rankings include Tier 1, 2, 3 & 4. These rankings are based on the “Risk” your facility poses based on the potential consequences that may result from a terrorist attack.
- c) Third: If your facility is ranked in Tiers 1 through 4, you must conduct an assessment of your facilities vulnerability, called a Security Vulnerability or SVA. SVAs are a methodical evaluation of your current security posture. This information is submitted to DHS.
- d) Fourth: After evaluating your SVA data, DHS issues a final finding of your facilities Tier and provides you with a list of specific areas that your security program must more adequately address.
- e) Fifth: Your facility develops a Site Security Plan (SSP) based on the DHS findings. Your SSP is judged on its performance to specific requirements issued by DHS called Risk Based Performance Standards or RBPS.
- f) Sixth: Your SSP is submitted to DHS for approval, you implement your plan and DHS conducts inspections and audits to ensure compliance.

How much time do I have to comply? The CFATS regulation is undergoing both internal review and implementation. All Top Screens were required to be completed on January 22, 2008. DHS expects to begin issuing the preliminary Tier classification in mid-April. Once facilities have been notified of their rankings, they will have anywhere from 60 days to 180 days to complete the SVA phase (depending on their Tier).



The Single-Source Security Solutions Provider™

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the penalties? CFATS includes provisions for imposing civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day, and shutting down facilities that fail to comply with the regulations.

What are Risk Based Performance Standards (RBPS)? RBPS stands for Risk Based Performance Standards. These are the general requirements that a facility's Site Security Plan must comply with. RBPS includes provisions for such security parameters as perimeter security, access control, mitigation and response plans, auditing and other issues, relevant for developing an effective Site Security Plan.

What is a Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA)? An SVA is a methodical evaluation of the characteristics of a facility or a specific asset in the facility, that may be a potential target for a terrorist attack. An SVA seeks to evaluate those characteristics of the critical asset which may represent a relative weakness or path of least resistance for an adversary. Vulnerabilities can include physical attributes or security procedures which can be capitalized on during an attack.

Who will be reviewing my plans? DHS reviews all Top Screen submissions, all SVA submissions and all Site Security Plan submissions.

What happens when my processes change? Tier rankings, SVA results and Site Security Plans are all dependant on the chemicals and the assets within a facility. Although DHS has not formally defined the process for re-evaluation, it is likely that changes that affect the chemicals or the vulnerabilities of a facility will result in requisite changes in a facility's SSP.

What does COI stand for? Chemical of Interest. These chemicals, approximately 300 of them, represent the substances that DHS has determined pose the potential for serious consequence and are therefore, more likely to be subject to terrorist activities.



The Single-Source Security Solutions Provider™

Two Righter Parkway, Suite 200 | Wilmington DE 19803 | 302-479-7000 phone
WWW.KCI-PT.COM