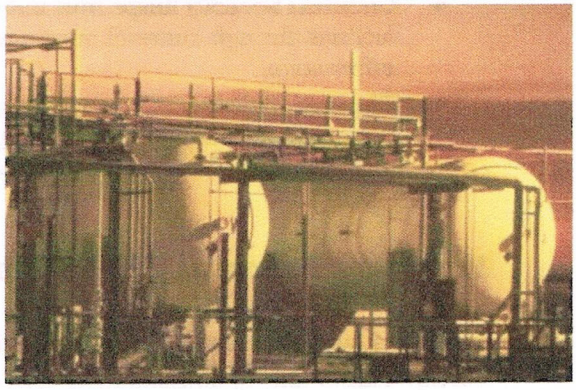
Homeland Security

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards



In October 2006, Congress passed Section 550 of the DHS Appropriations Act of 2007, Pub. L. 109-295, authorizing and requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to regulate security at chemical facilities that DHS determines, in its discretion, are high-risk. To implement this authority, DHS issued the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards regulation (CFATS) in 2007. Under CFATS, facilities that have been finally determined by DHS to be high-risk are required to develop and implement Site Security Plans (SSPs) or Alternative Security Programs (ASPs) that meet applicable risk-based performance standards (RBPS).

- Facilities are determined to be high-risk based upon DHS analysis of a Top-Screen, Security Vulnerability Assessment, and/or an ASP. High-risk facilities must submit an SSP or ASP for DHS approval. If after completing its initial review of these documents, the Department believes that the facility has met the applicable standards, the Department will issue the facility a Letter of Authorization for its SSP or ASP and conduct an authorization inspection. Facilities whose SSPs or ASPs are determined to fully satisfy RBPS are issued a letter of approval.
- Following the issuance of a Letter of Approval, the facility must fully implement its SSP or ASP in order to maintain compliance with CFATS. DHS may conduct compliance inspections or audits from time to time to confirm the facility is implementing its SSP or ASP as approved. The facility also must conduct an annual audit of its own compliance with its approved SSP or ASP.

CFATS Is Helping to Reduce Potential Security Risks

The activities described above are having a real impact in reducing potential risks associated with chemical facilities across the Nation:

- In addition to the many facilities that have enhanced their security posture since the program's inception, more than 3,000 facilities have eliminated, reduced, or otherwise made modifications to their holdings of potentially dangerous chemicals and are now no longer considered high-risk.

- The chemical industry also believes that CFATS is having a positive impact. In August 2011, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) conducted a survey of CFATS-regulated facility owners covering approximately 800 facilities and received over 130 responses. Among other things, the ACC survey found that the majority of respondents believe that companies have made substantial investments in security upgrades as a result of CFATS, companies plan to make additional investments following DHS approval of their SSPs, and extending CFATS will improve chemical security at CFATS-regulated facilities.

DHS Compliance Assistance and Outreach

DHS has developed a variety of tools to facilitate compliance with CFATS:

- **The CSAT Help Desk** provides timely support to chemical facility owners and operators as well as a CFATS tip-line for anonymous chemical facility security reporting. It can be reached at 1-866-323-2957, or at csat@dhs.gov.
- **The CFATS Knowledge Center** is an online repository of Frequently Asked Questions, articles, and documents relating to CFATS and Ammonium Nitrate Programs. It can be found by visiting http://csat-help.dhs.gov.
- **Chemical Security Inspectors and other DHS subject matter experts** are available to provide guidance to facilities through outreach meetings, calls, and other engagements. Contact cfats@hq.dhs.gov for more information.
- **The DHS Website,** http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-chemical-security, includes additional resources, including the RBPS Guidelines and CFATS Appendix A, which details the screening threshold quantity (STQ) for potentially dangerous chemicals.

Reporting Potential CFATS Concerns

To report a possible security concern involving the CFATS regulation, call the Tip Line at **877-394-4347** (877-FYI 4 DHS). Calls to this tip line should involve the CFATS regulation at your facility or another facility. You may report concerns on voicemail anonymously. To receive a return call, leave your name and number.

If you have a security emergency or terrorist incident, call 911 or contact your local FBI field office.

Members of the media or trade publications looking for background information should contact the Office of Public Affairs at 202-282-8010 or MediaInquiries@hq.dhs.gov.