



Most Americans may not think about chemicals when they are cracking open an ice-cold beer, but chemicals are critical to breweries—from hydrogen peroxide that sanitizes and disinfects equipment to anhydrous ammonia that keeps refrigerators cold. When used properly, these chemicals assist in the production of the pale ales, lagers, and stouts enjoyed across the country. In the wrong hands, however, some of these same chemicals can also be used for great harm.



Four stainless steel brew tanks inside a facility.

What is CFATS?

The Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program focuses precisely on filling this chemical security gap. Authorized by Congress in 2006, CFATS identifies and regulates facilities that possess specific high-risk chemicals at certain quantities and concentrations —known as chemicals of interest (COI)—to ensure they have security measures in place that reduce the risks associated with the COI.

Appendix A of the CFATS regulations lists more than 300 COI and their respective screening threshold quantity (STQ), concentration, and security issues for which they are regulated. Any facility, including breweries, that meets or exceeds the STQ for any COI must report those chemicals to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through an online survey called a Top-Screen.

Chemicals Commonly Found in CFATS-Regulated Breweries

Commonly reported COI for this industry include, but are not limited to:

COI	Security Issue	STQ & Minimum Concentration
Hydrogen peroxide	Theft: Explosives/Improvised Explosive Device Precursors (EXP/IEDP)	400 lbs.; 35% Concentration or higher
Ammonia (anhydrous)	Release: Toxic	10,000 lbs.; 1% Concentration or higher
Chlorine	Release: Toxic	2,500 lbs.; 1% Concentration or higher
	Theft: WME (Weapons of Mass Effect)	500 lbs.; 9.77% Concentration or higher
Hydrogen chloride (anhydrous)	Release: Toxic	5,000 lbs.; 1% Concentration or higher
	Theft: WME	500 lbs.; A Commercial Grade (ACG)
Bromine chloride	Theft: WME	45 lbs.; 9.67% Concentration or higher

While the table displays COI commonly possessed by breweries, some may possess other chemicals regulated by DHS that may need to be reported. It is, therefore, important to become familiar with the COI listed in Appendix A.

What's Next?

If your facility possesses any COI at or above the STQ and concentration listed in Appendix A:

- Register for a Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) account, at <https://csat-registration.dhs.gov/>
- Fill out a Top-Screen, an easy-to-use online survey facilities use to report their chemical holdings and facility information to DHS.
- Based on the information provided in the Top-Screen, DHS assesses the overall risk of the facility.
- Facilities assessed as “high risk” by DHS are required to submit a security plan tailored to the risks associated with their chemicals.
- More than 150 DHS Chemical Security Inspectors are located nationwide to assist high-risk facilities identify and implement security measures, and conduct inspections to ensure compliance with the CFATS regulation.

Failure to Comply or Meet Security Standards

The Department has the authority to issue an enforcement action to a chemical facility found to be in violation of CFATS. Failure to comply with the regulation may result in the imposition of a civil penalty.

Tools and Resources

DHS is committed to providing CFATS resources and tools to facilities with COI.

- Appendix A Chemicals of Interest (COI) List: www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list
- CFATS Penalty Policy: www.dhs.gov/cfats-penalty-policy
- Request a CFATS Presentation to learn about any part of the CFATS regulation from submitting a Top-Screen to editing a security plan: www.dhs.gov/request-cfats-presentation.
- Request a Compliance Assistance Visit to learn what to expect from a CFATS Authorization or Compliance Inspection: www.dhs.gov/cfats-request-compliance-assistance-visit.
- The CFATS Knowledge Center is an online repository of FAQs, articles, and more: csat-help.dhs.gov/.
- The CSAT Help Desk provides timely support to chemical facility owners and operators. Call 1-866-323-2957 or email CSAT@hq.dhs.gov.

Contact Information

For any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact CFATS@hq.dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity.