



Most Americans may not think about chemicals that could be used in a terrorist attack when they are diving into a pool or going down a water slide, but these chemicals are critical to pools and water parks—from chlorine to disinfect the water to hydrogen peroxide that sanitizes equipment. When used properly, these chemicals make water swimmable for the public to enjoy. In the wrong hands, however, some of these same chemicals can be used to cause great harm.



Visitors in a pool at a water park.

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 regulation lists more than 300 COI and their respective screening threshold quantity (STQ), concentration, and security issues for which they are regulated. Any facility, including pools and water parks, that possesses COI at or above the STQ and concentration 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 Pools and Water Parks

Some of the commonly reported COI among pools and water parks include, but are not limited to:

COI	Security Issue	STQ & Minimum Concentration
Chlorine	Release: Toxic	2,500 lbs.; 1% Concentration or higher
	Theft: Weapon of Mass Effect (WME)	500 lbs.; 9.77% Concentration or higher
Hydrogen peroxide	Theft: Explosives/Improvised Explosive Device Precursors (EXP/IEDP)	400 lbs.; 35% Concentration or higher
Acrolein	Release: Toxic	5,000 lbs.; 1% Concentration or higher
Ammonia (anhydrous)	Release: Toxic	10,000 lbs.; 1% Concentration or higher
Potassium cyanide	Sabotage	Any Placarded Amount (APA); A Commercial Grade (ACG)

While the table displays COI commonly possessed by pools and water parks, 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.

COI used to fertilize land that is co-located with pools and water parks may not need to be reported if the COI is solely used during the application and treatment of the land. More information about this extension may be found by visiting www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities.

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 Required Security Standards

The Department has the authority to issue an enforcement action against 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.