



The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program identifies and regulates high-risk chemical facilities to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of the misappropriation or misuse of chemicals by an adversary.

Identifying Facilities as High-Risk and Regulating Site Security

The CFATS regulatory program uses a risk-assessment methodology to identify high-risk chemical facilities. DHS determines risk profiles by requiring facilities that possess specific quantities of chemicals of interest (COI) to complete a questionnaire, known as a Top-Screen, on their chemical holdings. Facilities determined to be high-risk must submit a Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) and Site Security Plan (SSP) or Alternative Security Program (ASP) to DHS for approval. The plan must include security measures that meet the risk-based performance standards established by DHS. The Department performs an authorization inspection at the facility prior to granting a security plan approval. Once a facility’s plan is approved, DHS conducts regular compliance inspections to verify that a facility is implementing the agreed-upon security measures.

Current Statistics

To date, DHS has received nearly 70,000 Top-Screen submissions from over 38,000 unique facilities. Of these, the CFATS program currently covers 3,018 facilities.** These high-risk facilities are divided into four tiers, with Tier 1 posing the highest security risk.

Facility Activities	Since Inception of Program*	At Currently Covered Facilities
Authorization Inspections	2,923	2,347
Approved Security Plans	2,732	2,266
Compliance Inspections	2,323	2,025

Enhancing the Risk-Assessment Methodology

In 2016, DHS released an enhanced risk-assessment methodology and streamlined Top-Screen, SVA, and SSP surveys, known as Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) 2.0. The enhanced methodology responds to recommendations made by a peer review of the original methodology and incorporates legislative mandates from the CFATS Act of 2014. Developed in coordination with industry and government partners and reviewed by a panel of external experts, the enhanced methodology has been independently verified and validated by Sandia National Laboratories.

Enhancements to the methodology include the addition of physics-based models for chemicals that could be taken offsite and used in an attack; updates to the threat variable, which is informed by intelligence; and improvements to the population modeling used to assess facilities that have release security concerns.

All facilities with COI that meet the Department’s thresholds are submitting Top-Screens to be analyzed using the enhanced methodology. DHS began sending tiering determination letters to these facilities on April 4, 2017. Visit the DHS website at www.dhs.gov/cfats-tiering-methodology to view a presentation on tiering trends or more information.

*“Since Inception of Program” statistics include facilities that were tiered when the activity occurred, but subsequently determined to no longer be high-risk. Typical reasons for a change in high-risk status include removal of a COI, reduction of the quantity of COI onsite, replacement of the COI with a lower concentration COI, and/or facility sale or closure.

**DHS continues to issue new high-risk tiering determinations as Top-Screens are submitted. 2,886 of the currently covered facilities were tiered using CSAT 2.0, and 142 were tiered using the prior methodology.