



**Homeland
Security**

Application of the *National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)* to CFATS Facilities

The National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)

The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, has replaced the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS). This new system will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

This transition may require covered facilities to make minor adjustments to comply with applicable CFATS requirements regarding Elevated Threats.

NTAS Alerts

NTAS Alerts will only be issued when credible information is available. These alerts will include a clear statement that there is an **imminent threat** or **elevated threat**. Using available information, the alerts will provide a concise summary of the potential threat, information about actions being taken to ensure public safety, and recommended steps that individuals, communities, businesses and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.

The NTAS Alerts will be based on the nature of the threat, including, if available, the geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected by the threat; protective actions being taken by authorities, and steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves and their families, and help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.

NTAS Alerts will contain a sunset provision indicating a specific date when the alert expires - there will not be a constant NTAS Alert or blanket warning that there is an overarching threat. If threat information changes for an alert, the Secretary of Homeland Security may announce an updated NTAS Alert. All changes, including the announcement that cancels an NTAS Alert, will be distributed the same way as the original alert.

In some cases, alerts will be sent directly to law enforcement or affected areas of the private sector, while in others, alerts will be issued more broadly through both official and media channels. When appropriate, DHS will contact CFATS facilities subject to the Alert and work with the facility to identify appropriate measures, procedures or other activities the facility could implement to address the identified threat.

Additional information on NTAS available at: www.DHS.gov/alerts.

Applying NTAS to SSPs

Within CFATS, DHS has determined that the previous Homeland Security Advisory System maps to the new National Terrorism Advisory System as follows:

Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS)		National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS)	
Low Condition (GREEN)	Declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks	Steady State	
Guarded Condition (BLUE)	Declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks		
Elevated Condition (YELLOW)	Declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks		
High Condition (ORANGE)	Declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks	Elevated Threat Alert	Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.
Severe Condition (RED)	Declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks	Imminent Threat Alert	Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

Risk Based Performance Standard (RBPS) 13 – Elevated Threats – requires that covered facilities have “the ability to escalate the levels of security measures for periods of elevated threat.”¹ The *Risk Based Performance Standards Guidance* (May 2009) identifies the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) as one mechanism used by DHS and other Federal agencies to inform the public of potential periods of elevated threats and suggests that a facility should have

¹ Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards, 6 C.F.R. 27.230(a)(13)

documented and implementable security measures to respond to the two highest threat levels – ORANGE and RED.

Accordingly, the questions in the on-line CSAT SSP tool have been revised to reference the new NTAS (revised text in italics):

- Does the facility have a documented process for increasing security measures during periods of elevated threats tied to the *National Terrorism Alert System (NTAS)*? (Q:19.1-16350)
- What level of security measures are implemented during periods of elevated threat as designated under *NTAS*? (Q:19.1-16364)
- Select "Yes" for all the measures that the facility uses when an *Elevated Threat Alert is issued that applies to the facility*. (Q:19.2-16736)
- *Elevated Threat Level Security Measures* (Q:19.2-16736)
- Select "Yes" for all the measures that the facility uses when an *Imminent Threat Alert is issued that applies to the facility*. (Q:19.3-16726)
- *Imminent Threat Level Security Measures*
- Indicate the time period in which the facility has the capability to implement increased levels of security in response to DHS elevating the *NTAS* threat level, while maintaining the measures already in use during normal operating periods. (Q:19.3-16732)

A facility will not need to make a change in a submitted SSP unless the facility has explicitly referenced HSAS in facility-provided explanatory text. In such a case, the facility will need to revise that text by either making a technical edit through the CSAT SSP Edit function or requesting DHS to unlock the SSP to allow the site to make the edit. (See [CSAT SSP Edit Process Users Guide](#)).

In regards to implementing security measures in response to the issuance of an applicable Elevated Threat Alert or Imminent Threat Alert, a facility typically will be expected to implement those measures identified in the portion of their SSP addressing RBPS 13 – Elevated Threats in the manner described in the SSP. If an Elevated Threat Alert or Imminent Threat Alert is of a specific enough nature to implicate RBPS 14 – Specific Threats, Vulnerabilities, or Risks, DHS will contact the impacted facility and work with the facility to identify appropriate measures, procedures, or other activities that the facility could use to address the identified threat.