



Homeland Security

Letter sent to CFATS-Covered Facilities Tiered for Theft/Diversion COI on September 9, 2011

Seven years after the release of the 9/11 Commission report and leading up to the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, the United States, the Department of Homeland Security, and the chemical industry at large have made significant strides in building a nation that is stronger, more secure, and more resilient. However, we must not grow complacent; the Homeland faces a persistent and evolving threat, and we must continue to exercise vigilance as the anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attack approaches. Through ongoing dialogue and partnership, the Department, along with our security partners in both the public and private sectors, continues to strengthen our security and defend against evolving threats, minimizing risks, and maximizing our ability to respond to and recover from attacks and disasters of all kinds.

As you already know, many theft and diversion chemicals – and the chemical facilities that possess them – can be attractive to terrorists, as these chemicals may be used as a weapon of mass effect, chemical weapon, chemical weapon precursor, or can be used as an improvised explosive device in a vehicle or package. Mitigating threats associated with theft and diversion chemicals remains a vital priority. Personnel at the nation’s high-risk chemical facilities, i.e., those regulated under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program, have a unique and vital role in securing our nation.

In light of the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, I am contacting you to encourage your continued vigilance and commitment towards addressing the risks associated with possession of a theft/diversion chemical of interest (COI) and to prevent those who would do us harm from acquiring such chemicals for nefarious use. The [**CFATS Risk-Based Performance Standards \(RBPS\) Guidance**](#) describes security measures and options for consideration to address attack scenarios involving theft or diversion. These include:

- Inventory controls;
- Procedural measures;
- Product stewardship – “know-your-customer” – programs; and
- Physical security measures.

The CFATS RBPS Guidance, as well as other information regarding CFATS, may be found at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity .

In addition, I encourage you to review the presentation on [**Theft-Diversion and the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards**](#) that discusses how terrorists may try to acquire chemicals for illegal uses.