



Homeland Security

Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: Ammonia (Anhydrous)

If you possess 10,000 lb. or more of ammonia (anhydrous)--expected to be less than 10% water--you may be required to report it to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

DHS regulates security at high-risk chemical facilities under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) program (6 CFR Part 27). CFATS ensures high-risk facilities have security measures in place to reduce the security risks of certain chemicals that DHS has designated as “chemicals of interest” (COI).

Under CFATS, a chemical facility is “any establishment that possesses or plans to possess certain chemicals, at any relevant point in time...” and can be a large company or a single individual. CFATS requires a facility to report to DHS if it possesses a COI, such as ammonia (anhydrous), at or above a specified screening threshold quantity (STQ).

A facility must report to DHS all COI holdings that meet or exceed the STQ, regardless of how long the facility is in possession of the COI. Facilities that may possess ammonia (anhydrous) include, but are not limited to, farm suppliers, electric generation utilities, chemical manufacturers, and cold storage facilities, among others.

Ammonia (anhydrous) is a COI under CFATS. Ammonia (anhydrous) is a Release-Toxic chemical—meaning, if intentionally released, it has the potential to create a toxic cloud that would affect populations within and beyond the facility.

The STQ for ammonia (anhydrous) is 10,000 lb. Failure to report possession of a COI at or above the STQ can be subject to civil penalties. For more information on ammonia (anhydrous) as a COI, visit www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-coi-list.

Resources for Facilities with Ammonia (Anhydrous)

- **Contact the CFATS Help Desk** with questions or to help begin the process. The Help Desk can be reached at 1-866-323-2957 or at csat@hq.dhs.gov.
- **CFATS First Steps:** If your facility possesses ammonia (anhydrous) in quantities that meet or exceed the STQ, you have 60 days from the time you come into possession to report your holdings via an online survey called a Top-Screen. **Get started** by visiting www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-first-steps-fact-sheet to see what steps to follow to determine if you need to comply with CFATS.
- **How should a facility report ammonia (anhydrous)** that undergoes various changes in temperature, pressure, and physical state within a refrigeration system? The total mass quantity within the system and the physical state, temperature, and pressure of the ammonia as it exists in the vessel(s) downstream of the condenser(s) should be reported. Learn more by visiting the **CFATS Knowledge Center:** csat-help.dhs.gov.
- **Agricultural Production Facilities:** The agricultural facility extension **does not** apply to agricultural production facilities that use ammonia (anhydrous) for refrigeration, or if the facility is a retailer, distributor, or warehouse. Agricultural facilities possessing ammonia (anhydrous) at or above STQ for such purposes should still report their inventory to CFATS. The extension may apply if the facility uses the COI in direct treatment to their crops. Visit www.dhs.gov/publication/cfats-agricultural-production-facilities to learn more.
- **Learn more about the program** at www.dhs.gov/chemicalsecurity. Resources include the regulation, list of COI, FAQs, and more on how facilities' information is protected.
- Please note that ammonia with a concentration of 20% or greater is also listed as a COI in Appendix A. It has an STQ of 20,000 lb. Learn more by visiting www.dhs.gov/appendix-a-chemicals-interest-list.