Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Standards (CFATS)

In June of 2007, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a new rule establishing risk-based performance standards for the security of the nation’s chemical facilities. Under this rule, DHS published a finalized Appendix A, detailing a list of “Chemicals of Interest” (http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/chemsec_appendixa-chemicalofinterestlist.pdf). Appendix A of CFATS identifies chemicals and their Screening Threshold Quantities (STQs). If a facility or site possesses, or later comes into possession, of a chemical of interest at or above the specified STQ, further assessment must be made to determine if the facility or site poses a significant risk to public safety. This first stage of this assessment requires the facility or site to complete an assessment tool, known as Top-Screen, which can be completed on-line at DHS (http://www.dhs.gov/csat-top-screen).

If your site or facility is determined to be a “high risk facility”, then you will be notified by DHS in writing, and may be required to submit further documentation, such as a Site Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) and a Site Security Plan (SSP). Note that many facilities that fill out the Top-Screen may not be subject to further regulation under CFATS. Appendix A and the Top-Screen will allow DHS to make a preliminary determination about whether the facility presents a high-level of security risk.

Hydrogen Peroxide:

Hydrogen peroxide in concentrations of 35% or greater is listed as a chemical of interest under Appendix A of CFATS. DHS listed hydrogen peroxide (35% or greater) not because the agency believes it poses an inherent risk to human health and safety by itself, but due to its potential for theft by someone who wishes to use it in preparation of an “improvised explosive device precursor” (IEDP).

If you are purchasing hydrogen peroxide in concentrations of 35% or greater, the facility or site will need to count all of the hydrogen peroxide that is stored in DOT (Dept. of Transportation) transportation packaging that is no longer in transportation to determine if
the STQs have been exceeded and a Top-Screen submitted. The threshold for hydrogen peroxide is 400LBS.

*Note that a Public Water System, municipal wastewater plants or facilities regulated under the Maritime Transportation Act (MTSA) are exempt from the DHS’ CFATS, but are urged by DHS to register at the DHS site.*

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Before using, read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for this chemical.