



Homeland Security

Background

In April 2007, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a very important regulation establishing chemical facility anti-terrorism standards (CFATS).

CropLife America welcomed this regulation, which aligns with its diligent and long-standing efforts to enhance the security of crop protection products in storage and channels of trade. CropLife America continues to engage in numerous initiatives to promote security measures, including our participation in DHS workgroups such as the Chemical Security Coordinating Council and Food and Agriculture Security Council, which improve our industry's ability to communicate threat information, report suspicious activity, respond to emergencies and recover from incidents.

Because agribusiness is unique in its use, distribution and storage of chemicals, so are its security needs. To address these unique needs, CropLife America formed an agribusiness security working group in 2002 with the Agricultural Retailers Association and The Fertilizer Institute to jointly address security concerns.

The working group developed guidelines and a web-based tool to facilitate the Security Vulnerability Assessments which are now required for certain facilities under the CFATS regulation. In addition, manufacturing members of CropLife America have adopted the comprehensive Responsible Care Security Code developed by the American Chemistry Council to enhance the security of chemical sites.

Other initiatives include CropLife America support of the American Agronomic Stewardship Alliance (AASA), a program to inspect and accredit more than 6,200 U.S. agricultural chemical facilities. CropLife America believes that AASA is a viable approach to ensuring, through third-party verification and certification, that site security plans are developed and implemented.

CropLife America and our member companies have also worked closely with federal and local law enforcement authorities to enhance site security. For example, in 2004, CropLife America organized an agricultural workshop for the Federal Bureau of Investigation anti-terrorism and weapons-of-mass-destruction coordinators with pesticide facility managers.

Position

- CropLife America supports CFATS' tiered, risk-based approach to categorizing chemical facilities on the basis of risk.
- CropLife America supports reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security's CFATS program and removal of the sunset provision set for September 2009.
- CropLife America strongly opposes the inclusion of "inherently safer technology" (IST) mandates in any future site security legislation or DHS rulemaking. IST and other chemical or process substitutions do not improve security and create unnecessary economic burdens for facility operators.
- CropLife America strongly believes that DHS should maintain its sole authority and purview over any future site security rules and legislative mandates. CropLife America agrees with the DHS position that states, "These Responsible Care companies have made great strides improving security throughout the industry and up and down the value chain."
- CropLife America believes that existing security regulatory programs, laws, and industry initiatives currently in place must be carefully analyzed before additional site security requirements are introduced. Examples of regulations in place are the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2001, the 2003 Department of Transportation Security Regulations and The Patriot Act of 2001. We strongly endorse a one-plan concept to satisfy regulations from multiple jurisdictions.