



## Protecting our Homeland – Is Your Facility High-Risk?

By Ruth Mayo, Regulatory Compliance Specialist, SiteHawk

On October 4, 2006 the President signed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of 2007 which provided the DHS with the authority to regulate the security of high-risk chemical facilities. On November 20, 2007, the [DHS](#) published the [final rule](#) to the *Federal Register*, which set forth security standards for high-risk chemical facilities. The DHS rule establishes risk-based performance standards for facilities determined to be “high-risk” by the DHS and requires them to: a) prepare Security Vulnerability Assessments (SVAs), related to their facility; and b) to develop and implement Site Security Plans (SSPs), which include measures that satisfy the identified risk-based performance standards. The rule does allow certain covered chemical facilities, in specified circumstances, to submit Alternate Security Programs in lieu of an SVA or SSP or both.

### Determining High-Risk Status

Appendix A of CFR 6 Part 27 contains the Chemicals of Interest (COI) list. Facilities that manufacture, use, store, or distribute any of these chemicals above the screening threshold quantity (STQ) must complete and submit a Chemical Security Assessment Tool (CSAT) Top-Screen. The CSAT provided by the DHS, allows for electronic collection of key data from the facility to determine the level of risk that facility poses, placed in one of four tiers. (Register for access to the CSAT at [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov).) DHS will require facilities

placed into Tiers 1-3 to complete a SVA, the results of which will allow DHS to further granulate each facility’s level of threat, affecting the type of SSP required. The CSAT is comprised of four tools: 1) facility registration; 2) consequence screening questionnaire (Top-Screen); 3) Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) tool; and 4) SSP template.

Facilities are required to submit a CSAT Top-Screen within **60 calendar days of coming into possession** of any such Chemical of Interest at or above the STQ. It is important to note that failure to complete a CSAT Top-Screen within the timeframe provided may result in civil penalties, a DHS Security audit and inspection, or an order to cease operations.

SiteHawk constantly monitors regulatory changes and searches for ways to assist our clients in complying with these changes. We promptly responded to the DHS interim final rule by providing our clients with the ability to cross-reference their chemicals against the initial COI list. Once the rule became final, SiteHawk created an on-demand report including potentially reportable materials, the name and CAS of their qualifying components, and their respective STQs. Experience SiteHawk’s regulatory compliance tools for yourself, contact us at [info@sitehawk.com](mailto:info@sitehawk.com) or 1-877-483-4295 to schedule a free live web demo.