

Explosives Precursor Outreach

Canada is Counting on You

Here's Why ...



You, as part of the chemical supply chain, form the first line of defence against those who would use chemicals to harm our communities and jeopardize our way of life. Everyone who deals with, or in, chemical manufacture or distribution is in an exceptional business – one in which a simple transaction can lead to tragedy and a timely report can save lives. To help keep these useful but potentially dangerous products from falling into the wrong hands, Canada is counting on your eyes, your instincts and your cooperation.

Chemicals in the Wrong Hands Are Deadly – Security Begins With You!

The Explosives Safety and Security Branch (ESSB) of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) administered the *Restricted Component Regulations*, which controlled the sale of most of the most widely used explosives precursors. These regulations have been superseded by Part 20 of the *Explosives Regulations, 2013* (the Regulations), which came into effect February 1, 2014. Although regulation is effective, it is not a complete solution.

Accordingly, ESSB is launching an information and training outreach effort aimed at the industry segments that produce and distribute such chemicals and particularly aimed at point-of-sale staff. The program will implement several precautionary steps by training staff to help them recognize suspicious attempts to purchase such chemicals.

As a key member of this outreach initiative, we ask that you participate. It is voluntary. It will cost you nothing. We are asking only that you go about your normal activities with a heightened level of vigilance.

Since 2008, the Government of Canada has regulated key precursor chemicals through regulations that describe the security requirements for these chemicals and set out the obligations for suppliers.



Restricted Components (regulated)

Chemical	Examples of normal use
Ammonium nitrate	Fertilizer, first aid cold packs
Hydrogen peroxide	Hair bleach, cleaning products
Nitromethane	Car racing fuel, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, a dissolving agent in Super Glue®
Potassium chlorate	Safety matches, herbicides
Potassium perchlorate	Pyrotechnics, automotive air-bag igniters, fireworks
Sodium chlorate	Pulp bleaching, herbicides
Nitric acid	Metal treatment, fertilizer production, wood finishing
Potassium nitrate	Fertilizer, gunpowder, stump remover
Sodium nitrate	Fertilizer, food preservatives

However, many other chemicals are widely used, readily available and not currently regulated, including the following.

Watch List (unregulated)

Chemical	Examples of normal use
Ketones (Acetone, MEK)	Solvent, degreaser
Urea	De-icer, resin intermediate
Hexamine	Camping fuel tablets
Sulphuric acid	Battery acid, drain cleaners
Powdered metals	Pyrotechnics, paints, dietary supplements in food processing, solid fuels, cement
Citric acid	Food additive, water softener

Yes, You Can Help!

Point-of-sale Precautions

If you are a manufacturer, distributor or retailer and you are approached by customers who are new purchasers or have unusual orders, take these precautions:

- Ask technical questions to see if they know their business and have a legitimate need for the chemicals.
- Is the customer attempting to purchase more than one product from the Chemicals of Concern list?
- Observe and note suspicious behaviour (for example the customer seems nervous, hesitates when asked for information, gives vague answers or pays cash).
- For transactions by telephone, ask for the company's business number (if appropriate) and question the customer about the intended use of the products.
- Refuse to sell to a questionable customer.
- Write down a description of the customer's physical appearance (go to nrcan.gc.ca/minerals-metals/explosives/4411 for a sample reporting template).
- Save any paper on which they may have written a name or address. Handle this paper as little as possible to preserve fingerprints.

Reporting Suspicious Customers and Activities: If you suspect misuse of chemicals, report it.

1. To detect suspicious activity, consider
 - Does the customer fit the usual profile?
 - Is the order unusually small, large, repetitious or out of season?
 - Is the intended use of the product responsible?
 - Is the mode of payment logical?
 - Does the mode of delivery or of pick-up fit?
2. To secure your product and records, consider
 - Is access to your chemicals limited and controlled?
 - Are your chemicals secured during delivery?
 - Do you maintain good inventory practices?
 - Are sales records and inventory accessible to only those who need access?

If you suspect misuse, immediately report it to the RCMP National Security Line, 1-800-420-5805.

What the Government of Canada Is Doing to Increase Chemical Security

The Government of Canada, through the Explosives Regulatory Division at NRCan, is committed to the safe and secure use of chemical precursors. To deter terrorism and other criminal activity that uses chemical precursors, we are taking the following steps:

- regulating the sale of nine key explosives precursors
- strengthening relations with industry members of chemical manufacturers, distributors and law enforcement agencies to raise the level of precursor security nationwide
- participating in an international government working group aimed at restricting access to these chemicals to legitimate users
- producing outreach programs that promote regulation, voluntary industry codes of practice and public education and information

Support for the Outreach Program



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