

## CHEMICAL SECURITY REGULATION IN AUSTRALIA

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Published in the Advocate for the Consumer, Cosmetic, Hygiene and Specialty Products Industry (ACCORD) Update News, 21 December 2005.

Activities relating to chemicals that can be used for chemical warfare (CW) are controlled in Australia by the *Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act 1994* and by Customs import and export regulations. These laws and regulations implement international obligations derived from the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and other international arrangements. Although primarily aimed at preventing the development of major offensive programs and at providing reassurance to the international community, these laws also enhance Australia's national security by, limiting the access of terrorist organisations to potentially dangerous chemicals.

In accordance with its obligations under the CWC, Australia has placed controls on the production, processing, use and import/export of chemicals listed in three risk-based Schedules to the Convention. Activities involving these chemicals are subject to the issue of permits by the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO) or, in the case of exports, by the Defence Trade Control and Compliance (DTCC) office. Minimum quantity and concentration thresholds apply to the chemical activities involved. The most common controlled chemicals are triethanolamine, thionyl chloride, thiodyglycol and some organophosphorus chemicals used in fire retardants and engine coolants. ASNO also controls facilities which synthesize more than 30 tonnes of discrete organic chemicals per year, even if the specific chemical is not regulated.

In addition to the CWC chemicals, a range of other chemicals with possible CW application are regulated for export by DTCC. These include inorganic cyanide and fluoride compounds. All ASNO and DTCC permits are issued free of charge, quickly and with minimal administrative burden to participants. Full details of the CWC Scheduled chemicals, regulatory arrangements, and DTCC contacts and information are available at ASNO's website [www.dfat.gov.au/cwco](http://www.dfat.gov.au/cwco) or contact phone number 02 62611920.