



Businesses That Manufacture, Transport, Store or Use Chemicals

As described in the accompanying letter, *Business Owners Against Terrorism* is based on the idea that certain legitimate businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease, or somehow appropriate certain material, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following examples of activity relating to your specific business, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- Loss or theft of chemicals from your business inventory or tractor trailer
- Loss or theft of certain chemicals used in the manufacture of explosives
- Requests to purchase unusual amounts of chemicals or an unusual combination of chemicals
- Unusual inquires from strangers concerning how you store chemicals or handle them on the premises. Approach from a previously unknown customer whose identity is not clear.
- Transaction involving an intermediary agent and/or third party/consignee that is unusual in light of their usual business
- Customer's use of evasive responses. Avoids eye contact. Seems jittery, uneasy.
- Customer's reluctance to provide information on the locations of the plant/place where the chemicals will be stored
- Customer's reason for purchasing the chemicals does not match the customer's usual business or technological level
- Unusual customer request concerning the shipment or labeling of goods
- Unusual customer request for excessive confidentiality regarding the final destination or details of the product to be delivered
- Customer cancels purchase but then the exact same product is stolen or lost shortly after the customer's inquiry
- Customer does not request a performance guarantee, warranty or service contract
- Observations of your facility/business by unknown persons

Notably, in Western Europe, there have been a number of arrests individuals alleged to be planning terrorist chemical attacks. For example, on December 16, 2002, French anti-terror police arrested four suspects in Paris. Seized in the raid was iron perchloride, which could have been used in a chemical attack.

Your impressions and assessment, based upon your professional/business experience, are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern or set of circumstances is unusual.

The conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Please remember if you suspect something, do not take direct action, confront the individual, or reveal your suspicions. Record as many details as possible about the suspect/vehicle/locations and report them to the Orange County Sheriff's Office Intelligence Unit at 407-504-6764 or email Intel@ocfl.net.