



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department



You can help keep Australia safe from terrorism

In recent years, terrorists overseas have used commonly available chemicals to make bombs that have killed and injured innocent people. In 2011, a homemade bomb made from ingredients including ammonium nitrate (fertiliser) and nitromethane (solvent) exploded in the government quarter in Oslo. The blast killed eight people and injured 92.

Australian authorities have disrupted terrorist planning in Australia and thwarted a number of mass casualty attacks. As a result of their activities, 23 people have been convicted of terrorism offences in Australia in the last four years. The threat to Australia from terrorism is real.

Chemicals that can be used in explosive devices and toxic weapons are known in Australia as chemicals of security concern. These chemicals are mostly used for legitimate purposes by Australian businesses and the community, but if they fall into the wrong hands they can be used by terrorists to do harm.

Businesses play a critical role in ensuring that these chemicals are only used for their legitimate purpose. Australian governments and industry have developed a national, voluntary code of practice to help address the security risks of 11 chemicals that can be used to make homemade bombs.

The code contains practical information to help businesses assess and reduce their chemical security risks. It also shows businesses how to use their existing security processes alongside the simple chemical security measures set out in the code. When businesses take steps to ensure the right security measures are in place to protect their chemicals of security concern, they're helping keep Australia safe.

Applying the code is not expensive and makes good business sense; no business wants their chemicals to be used in terrorist attacks in Australia.

For information on chemicals of security concern and a copy of the national code of practice go to www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au.

The website contains many resources designed to help businesses improve their chemical security including sector specific guidance, training information and details on the 11 high risk chemicals that terrorists can use to make bombs.

If you suspect it, report it by contacting the National Security Hotline on 1800 1234 00 or hotline@nationalecurity.gov.au Calls to the hotline have helped in major investigations.