

## Notifying your intention to hold pathogens and toxins

### ProtectUK publication date

10/08/2021

If you or your work premises hold, keep or use stocks of specified disease-causing micro-organisms and toxins, you need to inform the Home Office.

### 1. Introduction

Managers and occupiers of laboratories and other premises are obliged to notify the appropriate authorities that they intend to hold, keep or use stocks of specified disease-causing micro-organisms and toxins.

They must also make sure that suitable security arrangements are in place. These obligations are covered under Part 7 of the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. Schedule 5 to the Act lists the dangerous pathogens and toxins covered by the legislation.

### 2. Criminal offences

Failure to notify holding these materials is a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.

If found guilty of an offence under Part 7 of the Act, there is a maximum penalty:

- on conviction on indictment, of 5 years' imprisonment or a fine (or both)
- on summary conviction, of 6 months' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (or both)

### 3. Notification process

If you wish to store or use the listed materials:

- send an email to the Home Office at [pathogensandtoxins@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:pathogensandtoxins@homeoffice.gov.uk) and request a 'notification form'.
- submit the completed notification form back to the Home Office at [pathogensandtoxins@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:pathogensandtoxins@homeoffice.gov.uk)

The Home Office will forward your details to the National Counter-Terrorism Security Office who will, in turn, notify the appropriate counter-terrorism security advisor.

Your local counter-terrorism security advisor will then contact you to make sure that appropriate security measures are in place.

#### KEYWORDS

CBRN  
THREAT  
SUBSTANCES  
CHEMICAL  
ATTACK METHODOLOGY

#### SECTOR

RETAIL  
HEALTH  
HOSPITALITY  
EVENTS  
SECURITY

**PAGE CATEGORY**

SECURITY