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## **HIGHER EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS REACT TO DHS CHEMICAL MONITORING ANNOUNCEMENT**

*The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on Friday, November 2, released a pre-publication, revised list of chemicals that industry, research institutions, and others must inventory and report on because of their potential for misuse and criminal activity. As expected, the revised "Appendix A" of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards lists fewer chemicals than initially proposed and includes specific threshold amounts for the chemicals listed.*

*Following is a statement on the DHS announcement by the American Council on Education, the Association of American Universities, the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association, the Council on Governmental Relations, the National Association of College and University Business Officers, and the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.*

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Colleges and universities are committed to complying with the new DHS chemical security standards. They recognize the need for increased vigilance to prevent the theft or release of chemicals intended for research and teaching purposes to terrorists or other individuals who might misuse them. To this end, we have consulted with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure that the quantities of chemicals contained in the final version of Appendix A are appropriate to the relatively low risk of chemical diversions associated with a majority of college and university laboratories and other facilities.

The original published draft would have imposed on our campuses unnecessarily extensive rules for reporting and controlling access to even very small amounts of chemicals with minimal risk. These rules would not have made campuses appreciably more secure but would have inadvertently weakened national security by interfering with science and engineering education and research on college and university campuses.

We are pleased that DHS has heard our concerns and worked with our associations to address them. We will continue our collaborative effort with DHS to finalize remaining issues related to the full implementation of the new rules.

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