



ROLL CALL RELEASE

In Collaboration with the ITACG



14 October 2011

(U//FOUO) Terrorist Acquisition of Commercial Products for Improvised Explosive Device Production

(U//FOUO) Recent plots and attacks in the Homeland and overseas demonstrate a continuing terrorist focus on acquiring commercially available materials and components that can be used in constructing improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Heightened public and state and local official awareness, as well as tightened legal controls, have made it more difficult to purchase certain products that contain explosive precursors in bulk quantities or concentrated forms. Operatives are now more likely to use surreptitious, though legal, methods—such as multiple purchases in smaller quantities—to acquire sufficient amounts to create explosives.

- (U) On 27 July 2011, investigators found precursor chemicals and other IED components, including smokeless powder, clocks, batteries, wires, and other items commonly used to make IEDs in the hotel room of a US Army soldier who allegedly sought to target military personnel.
- (U) The admitted perpetrator of the 22 July 2011 attacks in Oslo, Norway avoided law enforcement suspicion by acquiring through legal means the ammonium nitrate, aluminum powder, nitromethane, and blenders he used in constructing IEDs.

(U//FOUO) Commercial products containing precursor materials may include:

- (U//FOUO) Fertilizer and first aid cold packs (ammonium nitrate).
- (U//FOUO) Swimming pool chemicals (calcium hypochlorite/hydrogen peroxide).
- (U//FOUO) Some types of water filtration/treatment systems (potassium permanganate).
- (U//FOUO) Beauty supply products (hydrogen peroxide and acetone).
- (U//FOUO) Industrial cleaning supplies (hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid).

(U) Potential Indicators of suspicious purchases: Most commercial products suitable for constructing IEDs serve legitimate purposes. Consequently, it is often difficult to identify purchases or other activities that may be associated with terrorist intent to create explosives. No single indicator is likely to divulge suspicious purchases, but, depending on specific circumstances, a combination of the behaviors listed below may warrant reporting and investigation:

- (U) Attempts to purchase all available stock or materials in bulk, especially by individuals with no previous history of bulk purchases.
- (U) Payment or insistence on payment in cash for bulk purchases, or using a credit card in another person's name.
- (U) Insistence on in-store pickup instead of store delivery of bulk purchase.
- (U) Use of rented or out-of-state vehicle to transport bulk purchases.
- (U) Smaller purchases of the same products at different locations within a short period of time.
- (U) Displays of nervous or suspicious behavior and evasive or vague responses to questions about intended use of products.

(U//FOUO) For additional information, please see DHS-FBI Joint Homeland Security Assessment "(U//FOUO) Use of Common Precursor Chemicals to Make Homemade Explosives," 10 August 2010; and Roll Call Release "(U//FOUO) Indicators of Suspicious Acquisition of Beauty Supply Products," 26 February 2010.

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(U) Prepared by the National Counterterrorism Center, Directorate of Intelligence; the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), Homeland Counterterrorism Division; the FBI Directorate of Intelligence; and the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector first responders in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States. Coordinated with the Transportation Security Administration, Office of Intelligence; the I&A Cyber, Infrastructure, and Science Division; the Office of Bombing Prevention; and the Office of Infrastructure Protection, Homeland Infrastructure Threat and Risk Analysis Center.

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Homeland Security

Office of Intelligence and Analysis
I&A Customer Survey

Product Title:

1. Please select the partner type that best describes your organization.

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the usefulness of this product?

- Very Satisfied**
 Somewhat Satisfied
 Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied
 Somewhat Dissatisfied
 Very Dissatisfied

3. How did you use this product in support of your mission?

- Integrated into one of my own organization's finished information or intelligence products
- Shared contents with federal or DHS component partners
If so, which partners?
- Shared contents with state and local partners
If so, which partners?
- Shared contents with private sector partners
If so, which partners?
- Other (please specify)

4. Please rank this product's relevance to your mission. (Please portion mark comments.)

- Critical
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- N/A

5. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Timeliness of product or support	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness to your intelligence needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. How could this product or service be improved to increase its value to your mission? (Please portion mark comments.)

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