

Precautions Regarding Chemical Plant, Production Equipment and Know-How

A far more complicated task is to ensure that chemical plant, production equipment and know-how are not diverted from the purpose for which they were originally contracted. It is recognized that virtually all equipment related to chemical weapon production also has legitimate civil use. Such equipment ranges from barbed wire fences to entire chemical plants, including perimeter security systems and devices, toxic gas detection systems, refrigeration systems, prefabricated storage containers, reactor vessels, pumps, valves, filters, agitators, heat exchangers and distillation columns, especially if made of corrosion-resistant materials. Attempts to focus on these specific items of equipment would, of course, be unrealistic and would present unwarranted obstacles to legitimate trade.

Instead, Canadian industry should be aware that plant and production equipment suitable for adaptation or diversion to the manufacture of chemical weapons or chemical weapon precursors may be sought by other countries aiming to develop chemical weapon capabilities. In such cases, enquiries for plant or equipment supplies or particular expertise are likely to be directed to: