PLEXCONCIL - The Plastics Export Promotion Council

PLEXCONNECT®

Edition 51, September 2023

G20 भारत 2023 INDIA

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The Plastics Export Promotion Council

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PROMOTION COUNCIL

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From the Chairman's Desk

It is indeed a proud moment for our country as the world celebrates India's successful landing of Chandrayaan 3 on the moon's south pole, a first-time achievement ever by any country's mission. As a nation let us hail this truly remarkable achievement that is just another testimony to India's growing prowess. Kudos to ISRO and of course the Govt of India for such bold journeys that will forever etch our country's position in the history of modern mankind.

Meanwhile, the upcoming G20 summit in September is also set to be a culmination of a year covering 200 meetings across 50 Indian cities. Another huge leap for India as common Indians – students, entrepreneurs, civil society members, academicians – participate in events and contribute to the global agenda. The events organised all over India have been providing forums for foreign delegates and Indian locals to interact. A clever strategy that not only allowed Indians to better understand global dynamics but also showcased the new India to the world. Undoubtedly, the underlying objective is to foster a more cohesive and conducive socio-economic international relations that will only strengthen our nation's ambitions of becoming USD 5 trillion economy.

Recently, the winners of the 2023 Re|focus Sustainability Innovation Awards have been announced by the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS). The program recognizes innovations in plastics manufacturing that produce environmental benefits in design, materials, and end-of-life management. Globally, we are seeing increased investments that promote innovation aimed at creating sustainable solutions that support global environmental goals and our own industry too continues to strive towards developing products and practices that meet circularity targets. In this issue, we talked to Shashank Agarwal, Dy MD, Kanpur Plastipack as they embark on a new venture with CPP Films in pursuit of offering sustainable solutions.

We are also very pleased to bring you our interview with the Chairman & MD of Garware Hi Tech Fibres, Dr. S B Garware who shares valuable insights into the PPF industry, a segment that has been achieving remarkable growth with increasing application beyond automobile to aerospace, defense, and more.

During July 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 956 million, lower by 14.6% from USD 1,119 million in July 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – July 2023 was USD 3,741 million as against USD 4,395 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 14.9%. India's overall merchandise exports have declined for 8 months in a row now due to global headwinds and a lack lustre demand from major trading partners.

However, the trend is not going unnoticed and recently, Plexconcil attended a stakeholders' consultation organized by the Dept of Commerce regarding aspects of India's foreign trade and to make a vision document that would outline the key strategic objectives and approach in the short term (2023-24), medium term (2030) and long term (2047 – Amrit Kaal Period). The objective of the meeting was to discuss matters pertaining to Merchandise exports falling under the purview of our council and explore opportunities for growth and collaboration to achieve the target of $1 Trillion USD in Merchandise exports by 2030 and $8 Trillion USD in total exports (Merchandise + Services) by 2047.

In addition to our feature on the Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1442: The 16th Amendment to the Regulation on Plastic Materials and Articles intended for food contact, we bring you our Product of the Month – Shutters & Blinds, as well as news and views from around the world.

As we move towards the last quarter of this calendar year, wish you all a very happy festive season ahead and lots of good fortune.

Warm regards,

Hemant Minocha
Chairman

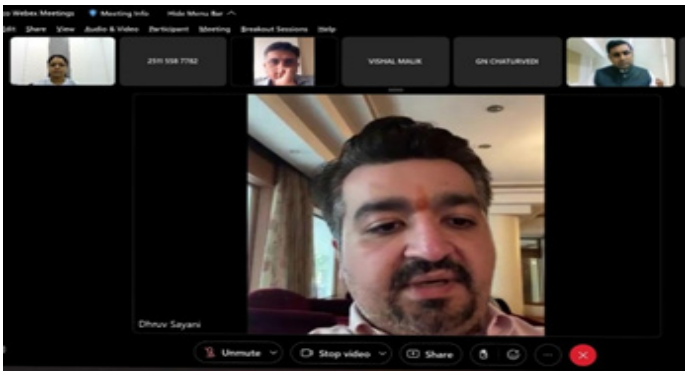
VC Meeting with MoC – WANA Region on 04th July 2023 | Eastern Region

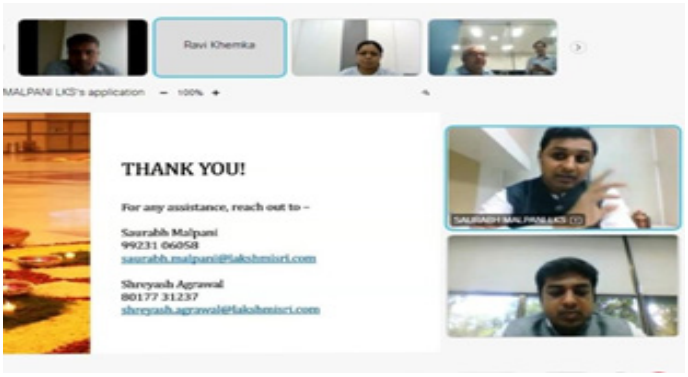
A virtual meeting organised by DOC under the Chairmanship of Ms. Priya P. Nair, Economic Adviser in order to discuss the issues faced in export to Africa and WANA regions. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director attended & represented the Council at this Meeting.

PLEXCONNECT- Webinar on Areas of Disputes under GST regime – 07th July 2023 | Western Region

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL), along with Knowledge Partner Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys (L&S) organized a webinar on "Areas of Disputes under GST regime" to create awareness among the trade about the major area of disputes on 7 July 2023 through virtual mode.

Mr. Dhruv Sayani, Plexconcil Panel Chairman of Consumer & Housewares Products and director of M/s. Crystal Plastics & Metallizing Private Limited gave welcome address for the webinar. Speakers, Mr. Saurabh Malpani, Associate Director, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys and Mr. Shreyash Agrawal – Principal Associate, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys covered litigious issues like the GST on personal guarantee of directors, GST on transfer of leasehold industrial plots, GST on state government subsidy, GST on foreign bank charges etc. The webinar ended with Vote of Thanks by Ms Bharti Parave, Assistant Director, Plexconcil.

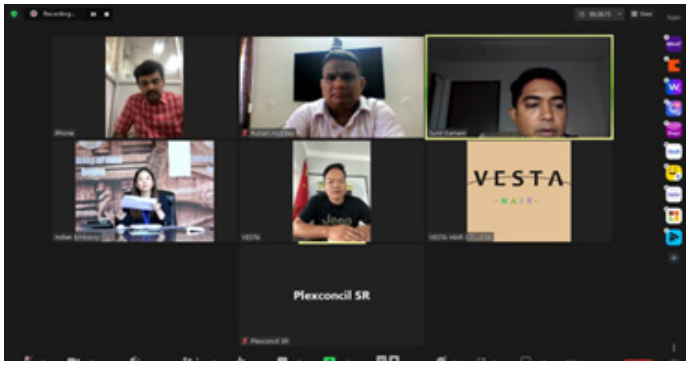




VC Meeting with Dept. of Industry, Govt. of Bihar on 10th July 2023 | Eastern Region

Online Stakeholder consultation meeting for the preparation of RAMP Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Bihar state. The Department of Industry, Government of Bihar organised this meeting on online mode on 10th July 2023. Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director attended the Meeting.

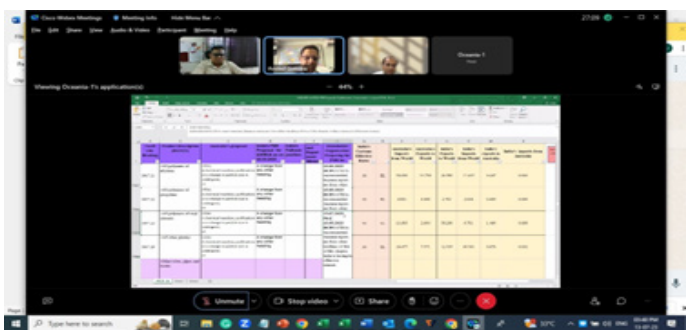
Proposed Capacity Building and Technology Transfer Training Program for Human Hair and Hair Products; Virtual Preliminary Meeting held on 11th July 2023 | Southern Region



Plexconcil has proposed to organize the capacity building and technology transfer training program for human hair industry. Based on the Council's request the Embassy of India, China has approached Vesta Hair College in China to conduct the training in India. With regard to that a preliminary meeting was held on 11th July 2023 to discuss the deliverables from both the Vesta Hair College and Human Hair Industry. The virtual meeting was held under the guidance of Embassy of India, China.

Virtual Meeting to discuss and finalise the PSR proposals for chapter 39 and 40 for AICECA on 13th July 2023 | Southern Region

A virtual meeting was held on 13.07.2023 to discuss and finalize the PSR proposals for chapter 39, 40 for AICECA. The objective of the meeting was to streamline our product specific rules (PSRs) proposals for all products related to Plastics, Rubber and rubber articles at the sub-heading level. The meeting was represented by Mr. Arvind Goenka, Past Chairman – Plexconcil and Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South.



VC Meeting with Mr Dammu Ravi, Secretary ER MEA on 13th July 2023 | Eastern Region

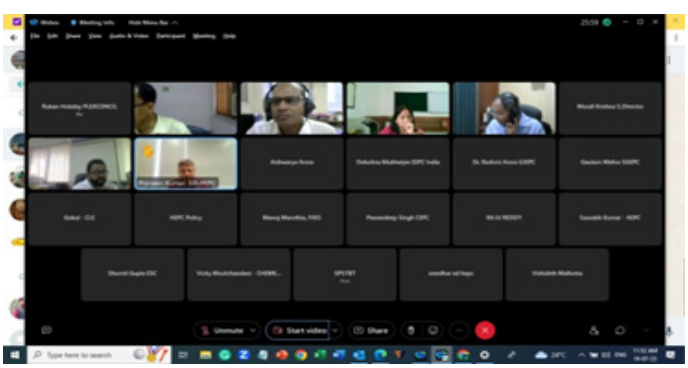
A virtual Meeting organised by MEA under the chairmanship of Mr Dammu Ravi, Secretary ER MEA. Agenda of the Meeting was to develop Team India approach to use Technology to optimally realize the 3T vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister. As requested by Mr G Srinivas, AS LAC, MEA to join this hybrid Meeting held on 13th July 2023 (Hybrid Mode), Mr Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director attended & represented the Council at this Meeting.

Workshop on E-Commerce Exports and Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra held at Chennai on 18th July 2023 | Southern Region

The Zonal DGFT-Chennai in partnership with the Department of Posts, Chennai organised a Workshop on E-Commerce Exports and Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra at Chennai on 13th July 2023 to promote E-commerce exports through Foreign Post Office in the state of Tamil Nadu. The Senior Officers from Department of Posts, the DGFT and the Customs Department made presentations on various aspects of E-Commerce exports, and it included live demonstration of the digital portals by the Department of Posts, Amazon Global and other stake holders. The Council was represented by Mr. R. Dayanidhi, Asst. Director, Plexconcil-South.

Virtual India – Sri Lanka ETCA meeting on 19th July 2023 | Southern Region

A virtual meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Ms. Jyoti Yadav, Director, on 19.07.2023 to discuss TBT issues related to India-Sri Lanka ETCA. Plexconcil was represented by Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South.



VC Meeting – Vision Documents regarding aspects of India's Foreign Trade Policy held on 20th July 2023 | Western Region

The Department of Commerce organised a stakeholder consultation with our council regarding aspects of India's foreign trade and to make a vision document that would outline the key strategic objectives and approach in the short term (2023-24), medium term (2030) and long term (2047 – Amrit Kaal Period). Objective of the meeting was to discuss matters pertaining to Merchandise exports falling under the purview of our council and explore opportunities for growth and collaboration to achieve the target of $1 Trillion USD in Merchandise exports by 2030 and $8 Trillion USD in total exports (Merchandise + Services) by 2047. Mr Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, Regional Director (ER) along with other Senior officers of the Council attended the Meeting.

Virtual Stakeholders Consultation on Chemical Process Rules for AICECA (India-Australia FTA) was held on 25th July 2023 | Southern Region

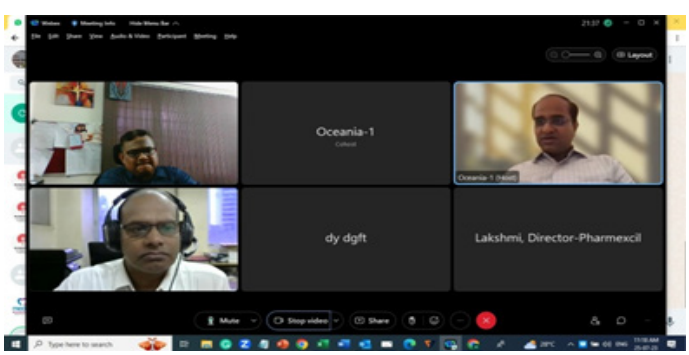
A meeting was called by TNB Division Department of Commerce convened by Mr. Anupam Kumar on

25-07-23 wherein the Plexconcil was invited to discuss Chemical Process Rules on Chapter 39 to finalize the Australia-India FTA.

It was informed that the Chemical Process had 6 Rules out of which only 2 apply to the Plexconcil (Chapter 39) which are marked in yellow.

1. Chemical Reaction Rule
2. Purification Rule
3. Mixing and Blending Rule
4. Change in particle size rule
5. Standard Materials Rule
6. Isomer Separation Rule

It was observed by the other EPCs (Capexil & Pharmexcil) this is the first time that such a clause in



Chemical Process Rules has been brought in for FTA, especially by Australia moreover the discussion

was more on technical aspects, all the EPCs suggested that they will approach the industry to get

more details and send the department the reply accordingly.

Plexconcil represented by Mr. Ruban Hobday, Regional Director-South was requested to collect more information from the Industry and CIPET if possible.

Plexconcil participation in the India Convention held at ITPO on 26th July 2023 | Northern Region

Plexconcil CoA and its members participated in the inaugural ceremony of newly revamped ITPO centre during India convention held on July 26, 2023 at Pragati maidan. The CoA members had the golden opportunity of interacting with Hon'ble Prime Minister and also with Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Regional Director-North was instrumental in organising the above meetings.

Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Government of India

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Dr. S B Garware

Chairman and Managing Director,
Garware Hi-Tech Films Limited (GHFL)

Initially known as Garware Motors Pvt. Ltd. and promoted by Late Padmabhushan Dr. Bhalchandra (Abasaheb) Garware, the origin of Garware Hi-Tech Films Ltd dates back to 1957 during which time, the company was in the business of trading imported cars. In 1977, the company was renamed Garware Plastic and Polyester Private Ltd., with the shift in focus to polyester film manufacturing. Today, the company is a leading manufacturer and supplier of high-quality, durable, and value- added polyester films internationally.

The Company's manufacturing locations at Waluj and Chikalthana, Aurangabad, are established comprehensive operational setup, housing administrative, manufacturing, and R&D divisions focused on producing value-added films at these facilities. Supported by a workforce of approximately 850 employees, the company's foundation is firmly rooted in the principles of trust and innovation.

In this issue, Dr. S B Garware, Chairman and MD of the company talks about PPF films and factors that drive the growth opportunities for the segment.

(excerpts)

What drives innovation at Garware?

Innovation at Garware Hitech Films Limited (GHFL) is driven by 4 fundamental factors, which also form the base for our business. We keep customer-centricity at the core of our innovation. Our sales teams regularly interact and take feedback from our end consumers, channel partners and relay the same back to our R&D team which then takes up product development.

Secondly, we focus on understanding the unique preferences & intricacies of the local markets, considering factors like climate, purchasing power, and regulatory mandates to ensure customer focus & product-market fit. There is very detailed research that goes into ensuring that innovation and research are relevant for today's market and not an innovation without any market.

GARWARE HI-TECH FILMS

Hence, we build products that deliver the highest value for money for our clients. It is our endeavor and our company's mission to deliver best quality at reasonable prices. All the functions of the organization are wired to this mission and hence our R&D team also focused on delivering products at the best possible prices.

Lastly, as the torch bearer for the industry, it is our responsibility to raise awareness on the benefits of the products. Our efforts expand from technical innovation to market creation where we aim at enhancing the overall customer experience & product ecosystem. For example, our initiative to create a community of highly trained applicators through our custom-curated 2-day free-of-cost training program. Till date, our program has catered to 500+ applicators across 50+ cities.

Tell us about your flagship product Sun Control films (SCF), market landscape and growth drivers.

GHFL stands out in the industry as the sole manufacturer globally with backward integration in making Sun Control Films (SCF). This strategic advantage has propelled GHFL to become a trendsetter and leader in the SCF segment, contributing significantly to its revenues.

The company's success in SCF extends worldwide, as it serves customers across various continents, including North America, South America, Russia, Europe, China, Far East, Middle East, and Africa. GHFL's brand 'Global Window Films' is registered in the USA and has gained popularity, particularly in mature markets such as the USA and Europe. With an expansive presence, GHFL exports its products to more than 90 countries worldwide, and to solidify its global reach, it has appointed sales personnel in key markets such as the USA, UK, Russia, Brazil, UAE, and Australia. Additionally, GHFL enjoys a dominant position in the domestic market, with its flagship "Garware Sun Control" brand enjoying strong brand recognition.

To keep up with the consistent market demand for SCF, GHFL has significantly expanded its production capabilities by 75% with the commissioning of a new lamination facility. This move reflects the company's dedication to meeting growing market needs. Moreover, GHFL is strategically planning to enter the architectural window films and safety films sectors to further strengthen its complementary business offerings. The Company's premium brands, patented technology, established distributor network, and differentiated product range position GHFL well in global as well as domestic markets and drive its growth.

As per reports, the Global SCF market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 5.8% for the next decade. Rising domestic demand, positive outlook for the automotive and real estate sectors, and increasing awareness towards sustainability and the opportunities arising out of factors such as climate change are key drivers for product demand. These films contribute to energy cost reduction, carbon footprint reduction, and protect against harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays and infrared emissivity, making it an attractive sustainability choice for consumers and industries alike.

Details about the newly launched product in the Safety Glazing Window Films and its potential impact on domestic market growth.

We are pleased to announce the re-launch of our safety glazing window film in the domestic market, in response to high latent demand. Our safety glazing films offer a range of benefits, including enhanced fuel efficiency, exceptional UV rejection high UV rejections, protecting passengers from skin cancer, and more crucially injuries caused by shattering glasses. This innovative product serves as a dual-purpose solution, effectively combining advanced safety features with effective sun control properties. It is important to note our strategy aligns with government regulations on visual transmission levels (VTL).

We have undertaken comprehensive promotional strategy using digital and social media to raise widespread product awareness. Our dedicated team has executed precise campaigns, particularly aimed at involving detailing centers and showrooms. In fact, we have already completed installations in over 300 showrooms in Mumbai. Currently, we're replicating this success in the Bangalore and Pune markets, where the response has been highly encouraging. As a result, the outlook for the expansion of our solar control films within the domestic market looks promising. Although the timeline is uncertain, the potential business from the domestic market is estimated at around 80-90 Crores per annum, with expectations of further growth in the years ahead.

Tell us about Garware PPF films. What are some of latest developments globally in the segment? (Self-healing PPF films, ceramic-coated films, etc)

Multiple significant disruptions are happening in the global paint protection films industry. These cover the whole spectrum from aesthetics to technical specification and performance of the products.

Some of the latest innovations include technologically advanced self-healing coatings designed to automatically repair minor scratches & swirl marks on the paint protection films thus helping to maintain its gloss and underlying paint. The new range of PPFs today provides advanced UV protection that prevents the yellowing and color fading of vehicle paint.

Then comes the innovation that is typically there on the different finish options - like gloss, matte, satin, etc.

Further, improvement in adhesives and liners has made the PPF application process simpler, reducing the risk of imperfections during application.

There are also SKU-level innovations – where one can give precisely shaped PPF for different parts of a particular car model.

Finally, the industry is also producing customized PPFs designed for electric vehicles and high-end 2W segments to ensure seamless and precise fits.

Presently what is the estimated market for PPF in India?

I would say the current Indian market is in the early stages of "building awareness". There are roughly 35-40 lakh cars that are sold in India annually and nearly 40% is SUV and luxury car segment – which is essentially the segment that puts PPF the most. So technically it is a huge market, however, the current adoption rates are very low. US and China have penetration of nearly 10-12%. So, I would not like to ascribe a number to the PPF market size, there is significant headroom for growth, especially considering the growth in our target auto segments of SUVs and luxury cars.

There are a lot of supporting factors – road and traffic conditions, rapid urbanization, etc which are fueling the growth of PPF. As Indian consumers become aware of the widespread benefits of PPF against scratches, stone chips & pollution damages, the demand will for sure increase.

What are the reasons for lower penetration in India despite the growing demand for automobiles in the country?

The primary challenge faced by the industry is the lack of consumer awareness towards the advanced features of the product. Benefits including protection against scratches and swirls, self-healing coatings, UV protection & cost-effectiveness compared to conventional solutions like repainting & ceramics will be critical to convince customers and increase penetration.

Further, the absence of a domestically produced PPF product in the market creates significant obstacles for brands to increase their presence. GHFL is able to provide extremely high quality and prompt customer service on account of our local set-up and presence. Further, given our domestic manufacturing, we have been able to give the better quality at much lower prices compared to some of the imported brands.

What are your plans for greater market penetration, both in India and globally?

We believe that to drive higher penetration in both the Indian and global markets we will have to follow a simple 4-step process:

1. Focus on creating the right products that are customized to suit the local market in terms of performance, specifications and cost. We have created exclusive product lines that specifically cater to the Indian, the US and the European market.
2. To support this wide range of offerings, we are setting up an efficient and vast network of business partners and ensuring we have a distributor network that can serve the length and breadth of this country and also globally. For India, ensuring availability of our product at every counter in high-priority auto markets of Mumbai, Delhi NCR, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Kolkata and many others is the priority. We have been able to get some very good partners onboard and look to continue doing the same as we build out our India business.
3. As discussed before, we have simultaneously ventured to create an extensive ecosystem of highly trained applicators and state-of-the-art Garware Application Studios (GAS) to ensure rich application experience and error-free work completion.
4. As market leaders, it is also our responsibility that we create an enabling ecosystem for PPF and SCF in India. We have set up an applicator training program to provide hands on training to PPF applicators from across the country. Till date, we have trained and created a community of over 500 applicators.

Which countries are major competitors to India in the PPF space? What are the advantages that they offer?

There is limited competition for us in the Indian market considering our focus on Make-in-India products. While there are well-known global brands who import products into the country for the local PPF market, as discussed before, the lack of a domestic DNA affects their service levels & supply-chain efficiency significantly.

This is where the key differentiation lies. The quality of customer service and support, quick and efficient order fulfilment, and resolution of customer issues play a crucial role in gaining a competitive edge in the market.

What are upcoming opportunities for PPF films, in terms of exports?

At GHFL we serve more than 90 global markets under the brand name of “Global Films.” The brand has gained significant prominence in regions including the US and the European Markets. While these are mature markets, the growing automobile industry, increasing premiumization & customer awareness provides an opportunity for further expansion.

Also, the Canadian, Japanese, and Australian markets present significant opportunities for business expansion considering the high-volume sales for premium and ultra-premium vehicles.

What are the factors that will drive future growth in the segment?

We are bullish on the Indian and global markets for the paint protection films business. The key factors that will drive exponential growth for the segment include:

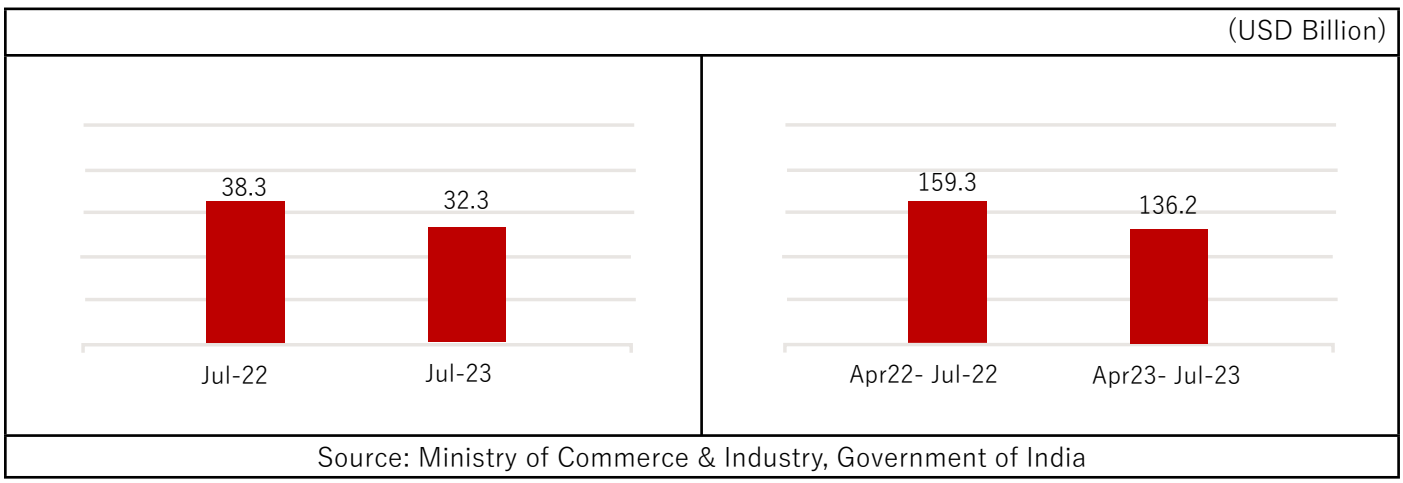
1. Increasing customer awareness about the PPF as an essential accessory providing scratch resistance, hydrophobicity, self-healing, and more benefits.
2. This is supported by the growing enthusiasm & affection of automobile owners who perceive their vehicles as cherished assets. This is majorly driven by the fact that a large population of car owners today are youngsters in their 30s who are passionate about protecting their 2/4Ws for aesthetic & resale purposes.
3. Premiumization in India’s expanding automotive market presents a significant opportunity for PPF adoption. With growing income for Indian consumers, there is an uptick in the premium and luxury sedans, SUVs which is the target segment for PPF
4. Furthermore, the exponential growth in the EV segment will enable higher PPF adoption by customers. With significant technological advancement, the PPF is designed to protect the exterior body of these vehicles, restrict body temperatures, and manage extreme battery heat dissipations, hence ensuring that these vehicles maintain their range and overall efficiency.

Export Performance – July 2023

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 32.3 billion in July 2023, down by 15.9% from USD 38.3 billion in July 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2023 – July 2023 was USD 136.2 billion as against USD 159.3 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 14.5%.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



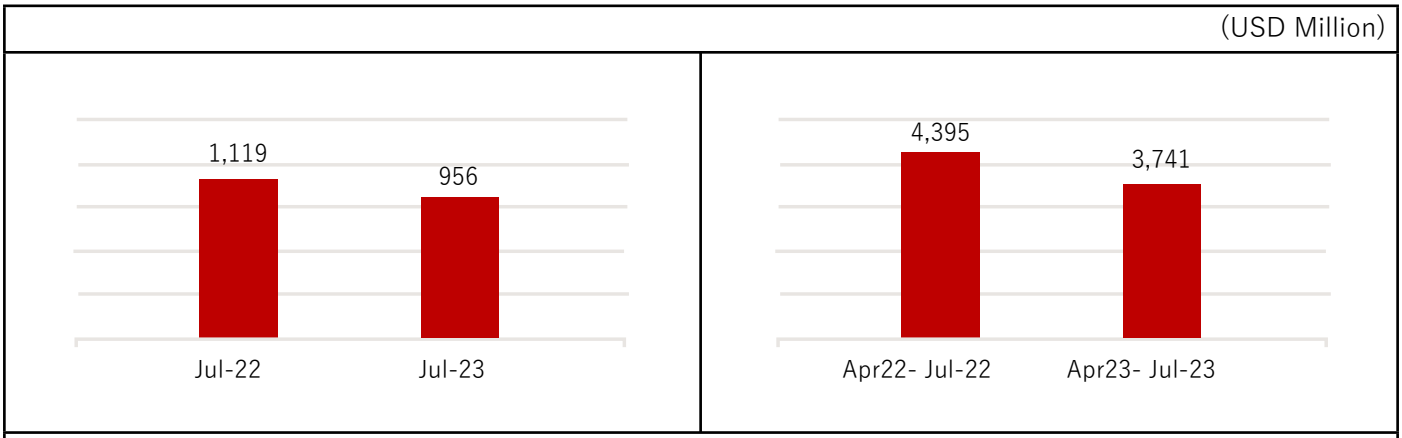
Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During July 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 956 million, lower by 14.6% from USD 1,119 million in July 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – July 2023 was USD 3,741 million as against USD 4,395 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 14.9%.

Export Performance

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In July 2023, majority of product panels witnessed a downfall in exports. The panels which contributed majorly towards the decline in exports were Plastic raw materials followed by Plastic films and sheets; FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; and Miscellaneous products and items nes. Other panels which struggled to grow were; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; Plastic pipes & fittings; and Writing instruments & stationery; and Human hair & related products.

Product panels which reported a positive growth in exports during July 2023 were Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; Consumer & houseware products; FRP & Composites and Medical items of plastics

Exhibit 3: Panel-wise % growth in plastics export by India

Panel	Jul-22	Jul-23	Growth	Apr 22-Jul-22	Apr 23-Jul-23	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	66.3	69.4	+4.7%	255.3	248.7	-2.6%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	22.7	19.8	-13.1%	93.0	83.7	-10.0%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	135.8	117.4	-13.5%	543.4	420.7	-22.6%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	49.9	59.6	+19.3%	209.6	220.7	+5.3%
FRP & Composites	37.0	39.8	+7.6%	156.3	146.2	-6.5%
Human hair & related products	60.4	56.4	-6.5%	247.1	239.8	-2.9%
Medical items of plastics	41.4	44.0	+6.2%	165.7	174.9	+5.5%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	87.1	65.8	-24.4%	337.4	291.8	-13.5%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	57.9	49.9	-13.9%	224.3	194.8	-13.2%
Plastic films & sheets	162.9	139.4	-14.5%	703.1	542.5	-22.8%
Plastic pipes & fittings	26.9	25.2	-6.1%	104.2	91.4	-12.3%
Plastic raw materials	348.5	248.0	-28.9%	1,262.5	997.1	-21.0%
Writing instruments & stationery	22.3	21.2	-5.0%	92.9	88.9	-4.3%
	1,119.1	955.7	-14.6%	4,394.9	3,741.1	-14.9%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & houseware products** were up by 4.7% in July 2023 on account of higher sales of Tableware and kitchenware of plastics (HS Code 392410) to Benin and the United Arab Emirates; Safety headgear of plastic (650610) to Armenia; and Other switches of plastics (85365020) to Slovenia.

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments exports were down by 13.1% in July 2023 due to decrease in sales of Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene (56074900) to the United States of America and Sri Lanka.

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in July 2023 fell by 13.5% due to decline in sales of Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532). Indian exporters mention about slowing demand in the international markets, especially Europe and North America. However, FIBC manufacturers are looking at various other export destinations especially Japan and South Korea to grow their business with the help of Indian Missions present therein. Although it may be noted, that the FIBC exports have shown a positive growth from the previous month.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** increased by 19.3% during July 2023 on account of higher sales of Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics (590390) to the United States of America and PVC floorcoverings (391810). In July 2023, PVC floorcoverings achieved its highest-ever monthly export in the last one year.

Export of **FRP & Composites** was up by 7.6% on account of higher sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099) which was previously struggling due to the economic downturn as well as elevated manufacturing cost in Europe. In July 2023, this product achieved its highest-ever monthly export in the last one year.

Export of **Human hair & related products** declined by 6.5% due to lower prices being offered for Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed (05010010) in the international market.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** were up by 6.2% in July 2023 due to higher sales of Spectacle lenses (900150) and Blood transfusion apparatus (90189032). India generally exports spectacle lenses to countries in Europe, North America and the United Arab Emirates

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** fell by 24.4% in July 2023 due to lower shipments of Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (90011000) to certain countries in Europe and North America.

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export declined by 13.9% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321). Exports of articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics (392390) weakened to countries in Africa and North East Asia region.

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 14.5% in July 2023 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (39191000); Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (392020); Sheets and films of polyethylene terephthalate (392062); and Flexible metallised sheets and films (39219094). The plastic films & sheets segment remains under stress and manufacturers in India have slashed production amid sluggish global demand and high inventory.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 6.1% due to lower sales of rigid tubes and pipes of polymers of ethylene (39172110) and other flexible tubes and pipes of plastics (391732).

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 28.9% in July 2023 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769) majorly to Bangladesh, Bahrain and few European countries. One of the reasons for the decline in exports could be the Indian manufacturer's preference to meet the domestic demand over exports. India is among the top-5 exporters of Polyethylene terephthalate resin in the world.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** were down by 5.0% in July 2023 due to lower sales of Ball-point pens (960810) and other refills for ball-point pens (960860).

Exhibit 4: Details of % change seen in top 50 items of export

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- Jul 22	Apr 23-Jul 23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	325.8	251.3	-22.9%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	205.2	189.6	-7.6%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	248.3	140.4	-43.4%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	183.3	176.4	-3.8%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	153.3	144.4	-5.8%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	161.3	130.4	-19.2%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	137.7	132.2	-4.0%
48239019	Decorative laminates	97.7	96.7	-1.0%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	116.9	70.8	-39.5%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	90.1	66.5	-26.2%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	80.1	62.4	-22.1%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	79.4	60.9	-23.3%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	72.6	56.7	-21.9%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	110.7	54.3	-50.9%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	64.7	58.7	-9.2%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	56.3	56.1	-0.4%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Other	61.0	48.7	-20.1%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	50.0	40.8	-18.5%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	46.5	55.9	+20.0%
96081019	Ball-point pens	47.2	45.2	-4.2%
90183930	Cannulae	46.1	44.2	-4.2%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	39.7	36.7	-7.6%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	48.1	57.0	+18.5%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	43.5	36.0	-17.1%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	38.0	36.4	-4.3%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	28.2	30.5	+7.9%
96032100	Tooth brushes	31.9	29.7	-6.8%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, metallised	40.8	26.7	-34.6%
54072090	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of >= 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of <= 1 mm: Other	43.7	30.6	-30.0%
39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	34.3	28.7	-16.2%

39073010	Epoxy resins	39.8	21.1	-47.0%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	33.7	22.1	-34.6%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	29.4	33.2	+12.8%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	30.9	31.7	+2.8%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	31.8	25.5	-19.7%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	35.0	31.9	-8.8%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	26.2	24.3	-7.2%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene	28.5	28.3	-0.6%
39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials	26.9	26.3	-2.3%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	32.2	19.8	-38.4%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms	26.2	31.9	+21.4%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	26.5	25.4	-4.3%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	25.1	22.7	-9.8%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	26.0	19.2	-26.2%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles, of plastics	24.0	24.3	+1.2%
39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	25.2	22.0	-12.7%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	24.0	22.9	-4.5%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	23.1	17.5	-24.3%
39019000	Other ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	24.3	19.3	-20.5%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	43.4	13.6	-68.7%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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SCAN ME

Shashank Agarwal

Dy. Managing Director, Kanpur Plastipack Ltd.

Driving business growth through sustainability & innovation

With over 5 decades of experience in the industrial bulk packaging industry, Kanpur Plastipack Ltd's unique business model has enabled the company in creating its niche in both domestic and the export market. Focused on delivering customized solutions to meet diverse market demand and requirements in a reliable and consistent manner, the company has recently diversified into the Cast PP film segment.

Furthermore, the move also follows the critical importance of environment sustainability and reduction of its carbon footprint, eventually leading them to embark on the journey to solve recyclability issues by introducing its mono structured polymer laminate.

With the growing number of applications, CPP films come with 100% biodegradable properties that also enable processors fulfill their EPR goals. In this issue, we talked to Shashank Agarwal, Dy. MD of KPL about CPP films, its advantage and benefits as well as the company's vision behind entering the space given the emerging opportunities in India and globally.

(excerpts)

What are CPP films? Why are films gaining fast popularity, especially in the pharma/ food packaging industry?

CPP film, i.e., cast polypropylene film, is a transparent, unoriented film made from polypropylene. Since it is a mono-structured polymer film, it is more sustainable than other types of polymers because they are easier to recycle and can be made from renewable resources which fulfills & contributes our goal to solve recyclability issues in the world.

Besides, CPP film is a versatile material with a wide range of applications, including food packaging, pharmaceutical packaging, and textile packaging. In the world of flexible films, the lamination of BOPP with Polyester has been a trend pervasive for a long time & it's harmful to the environment because of its non-biodegradability. However, laminating BOPP with CPP film serves the same purposes in a better way with 100% biodegradability. It also helps us to fulfill our Extended Producer's Responsibility or EPR goals.

This makes us stand at the forefront of our commitment to achieve the collective goal of making the environment clean & green with its sustainability & recyclability aspects.

The fast popularity of films, especially in the pharma and food packaging industry, can be attributed to several factors:

- Visual Appeal: Films visually present information, products, and ideas, vital for attracting customers and ensuring safety in these industries.
- Info Dissemination: Films succinctly communicate complex information, like drug usage and nutrition, engaging professionals and consumers.
- Enhanced Marketing: Films create compelling marketing campaigns, showcasing product values, quality, and uniqueness, especially crucial in competitive markets.
- Regulatory Compliance: Films convey vital regulatory and safety data, ensuring proper product use and adherence.
- Consumer Education: Films educate conscious consumers about benefits, ingredients, usage, and risks.
- Innovation: Technological advances facilitate cost-effective, high-quality film production, enabling creative storytelling and innovative packaging.
- Global Reach: Online distribution lets films reach diverse global audiences, benefiting industries with wide customer bases.
- Sustainability: Eco-friendly films align with sustainability concerns, appealing to environmentally conscious consumers.
- Convenience: Films accessible on various platforms offer convenient learning and informed decision-making for consumers.

Overall, film's popularity in pharma and food packaging stems from its efficacy in conveying information, engaging consumers, ensuring compliance, and enhancing brand presence with visual appeal.

What are the other applications that are gaining acceptance and why?

Some other applications of CPP films that are gaining acceptance:

- Food packaging
- Lamination
- Garment bags
- Retort packaging
- Electronics packaging
- Solar cell encapsulation
- 3D printing

CPP films are gaining acceptance in these applications because they offer a unique combination of properties, including:

- Sealability along with low SIT
- High clarity
- Good barrier properties
- Excellent mechanical properties
- Recyclable and compostable

What are the differences/ advantages of CPP over BOPP films?

Here are some of the advantages of CPP films over BOPP films:

- Sealability along with low SIT
- Better seal strength
- Better moisture barrier
- More flexible and tear-resistant
- Can be heat sealed without a coating
- More sustainable

Here are some of the key differences between CPP and BOPP films:

Manufacturing process: CPP films are made using a cast film process, while BOPP films are made using a biaxially oriented film process. This difference in manufacturing process gives CPP films some unique properties, such as better clarity and moisture barrier.

Barrier properties: CPP films have better moisture barrier properties than BOPP films. This makes them ideal for packaging food and other products that are sensitive to moisture.

Mechanical properties: CPP films are more flexible and tear-resistant than BOPP films. This makes them ideal for applications where the film needs to be folded or bent, such as garment bags and food packaging.

Heat sealing properties: CPP films can be heat sealed without the need for a special coating. This makes them a more versatile packaging material than BOPP films.

KANPUR PLASTIPACK LTD

What was the vision behind your business diversification into CPP films?

With over 5 decades of experience in the industrial bulk packaging industry, we see a gap in the market especially for small order runs, incremental growth of demand for CPP films & their versatility over other flexible packaging films. All these factors contribute to the fulfillment of our core objectives which are to provide:

- Customized solution even to the smallest demand in a reliable consistent manner.
- Being a part of the journey to solve recyclability issues by introducing mono structured polymer laminate.

What are the emerging opportunities that you envisage, from an export perspective?

We see emerging opportunities in many regions/ countries like Asian countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and more), Gulf countries, African countries like Kenya, Tanzania, etc., Russia, & Germany

Who are the major competitors to Indian manufacturers/ exporters in the segment?

The major competitors in the export market segment are:

Toyobo Company Ltd. (Japan)

DuPont Teijin Films (Netherlands)

Mondi Group (Austria)
Amcor Limited (Australia)

Sealed Air Corporation (US)

Wipak Group (Poland)

Jindal Poly Films (UAE/India)

Foilpak (Turkey)

These companies are all major players in the global CPP film market & are the major competitors in the export market segment for Indian manufacturers.

Are CPP films environmentally sustainable? Your thoughts on the same?

Yes, CPP films are environmentally sustainable especially when compared to other types of plastic films. CPP films offer some environmental sustainability benefits due to their recyclability, potential compost-ability, energy-efficient production, waste reduction through thinness, and contribution to food preservation.

However, their overall sustainability depends on responsible manufacturing, proper disposal, and aligning with increasing consumer demand for eco-friendly packaging solutions.

What is next for Kanpur Plastpack?

The future is of the one who can adhere to the circular economy, the one who could provide 100% recyclable packaging solutions, the one focused on sustainability.

CPP films with their mono-structured polymer offer both 100% recyclability & a great sustainable packaging solution.

Considering the ever-increasing packaging requirements, the demand for Enhanced CPP films, Barrier & Retort CPP films will proliferate in the future

.

Thus, we envisage to setup 2nd CPP Cast Line soon and a BOPP film manufacturing line in the future to cater to the ever-increasing demand with our reliable packaging solutions.

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POLYMER PRICE TRACKER (DOMESTIC MARKET)
July 2023

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) ↓ ↓ ↑ May-23 June-23 July-23	• HDPE prices increased by Rs 1,000 per MT in July 2023 after witnessing a decline of Rs 5,000 per MT in June 2023 and by Rs 2,000 per MT in May 2023. • In July 2023, HDPE prices were up by Rs 1,000 per MT in the third week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) ↓ ↓ ↔ May-23 June-23 July-23	• LLDPE prices remained unchanged in July 2023 after a downfall of Rs 5,000 per MT in June 2023 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in May 2023. • In July 2023, LLDPE prices were remained unchanged throughout the month.
Low Density Polyethylene(LDPE) ↓ ↓ ↑ May-23 June-23 July-23	• LDPE prices moved up by Rs 2,000 per MT in July 2023; prices had fallen by Rs 5,000 per MT in June 2023 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in May 2023. • In July 2023, LDPE prices were hiked by Rs 2,000 per MT in the third week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.
Polypropylene (PP) ↓ ↓ ↑ May-23 June-23 July-23	• PP prices strengthened by Rs 4,000 per MT in July 2023 after witnessing a fall of Rs 10,000 per MT in June 2023 and by Rs 3,000 per MT in May 2023. • In July 2023, PP prices shot up by Rs 2,500 per MT during the first half of the month and by Rs 1,500 per MT later.
Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) ↓ ↓ ↑ May-23 June-23 July-23	• PVC prices were up by Rs 1,500 per MT in July 2023. PVC prices had contracted by Rs 1,000 per MT in June 2023 and by Rs 4,000 per MT in May 2023. • In July 2023, PVC prices were raised Rs 1,500 per MT in the mid-week of the month. Thereafter no price changes were announced.

Source: Industry, Plexconcil Research

Understanding Polymer Price Trends – August 2023

August witnessed notable fluctuations in polymer prices. PE prices rose by Rs 1.5/kg, while PP prices initially increased by Rs 2/kg and saw another surge mid-month, influenced by global booking offers and domestic production cuts. Polyethylene (PE), however, faced an enduring oversupply, with Middle Eastern producers stabilizing LLDPE prices between USD 950-1000, dampening demand. Even as the buying trends remained steady, BIS regulations posed challenges to multiple producers. The government's inclination not to extend BIS may lead to material shortages, especially from Iranian sources. With India's production deficits, the country has to import, and imposing BIS norms might bolster domestic producers.

A decline in plastic product exports, attributed to the global downturn, is expected to boost domestic supplies, particularly in the flexible packaging sector. A new industry concern is the anticipated drought impacting the Panama Canal, threatening a significant portion of global cargo traffic and potentially affecting a sizable chunk of the global trade industry. Western producers might particularly experience shipment delays to Asian and Middle Eastern markets.

The market forecasts a robust demand in September, influenced by rising international offers and evolving BIS norms. Polypropylene (PP) is projected to be in the limelight, with its national demand estimated at 6.8 million tons for FY23-24. Given the scale of imports and industry capacity additions, PP may soon become the second most imported polymer. Notable expansions, like HPCL's anticipated 1 million TPA project in 2024, may still not fully meet the demand. Hence, from September onwards, the polymer industry is poised for significant momentum.

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Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1442: The 16th Amendment to the Regulation on Plastic Materials and Articles intended for food contact

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1442 has recently been published by the European Commission, bringing changes to substance authorisations and introducing new substances in Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 (i.e., the Union list of authorised monomers, other starting substances, macromolecules obtained from microbial fermentation, additives, and polymer production aids). The amendments were driven by the need to consider scientific and technical progress in the food contact materials (FCM) industry, particularly the recent findings of the European Food Safety Authority, and address ambiguities in the application of the Regulation.

Key Changes

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1442 entered into force on 01 August 2023 (i.e., 20 days after its publication). Within the Regulation, key amendments included the following:

- Elimination of entries;
- Revision of phthalate limits;
- Revision of other entries;
- Addition of new food contact materials.

Eliminated Entries: FCM No 96 – "Wood flour and fibres, untreated" and FCM No 121 – "Salicylic acid" have been removed from Annex I and are therefore no longer permitted in the manufacturing of plastic FCMs. These items can continue to be placed on the market after 01 February 2025, but they are subject to an application for authorisation of specific uses, and the application must be submitted within 12 months of the amendment coming into effect (i.e., before 01 August 2024).

Revised Limits for Phthalates: Five phthalate entries in Annex I have been revised to include lower migration limits and a new group restriction number (Group 36), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Revised Limits for Phthalates in Annex I

FCM Substance No	Substance Name	SML [mg/kg]		SML(T) [mg/kg] (Group Restriction No)		SML(T) [mg/kg] (Group Restriction No)
		Old	New	Old	New	
157	DBP	0.3	0.12	32	36	Authorised as an additive for use in plasticisers and technical support agents in plastic FCMs, subject to specific restrictions of use and migration limits.
159	BBP	30	6.0	32	36	
283	DEHP	1.5	0.6	32	36	
728	DINP*	-	1.8	-	26	
729	DIDP*	-	1.8	-	26	

BBP = phthalic acid, benzyl butyl ester; DBP = phthalic acid, dibutyl ester; DEHP = phthalic acid, bis(2-ethylhexyl) ester; DIDP = phthalic acid, diesters with primary, saturated C8-C10 branched alcohols, more than 60% C9; DINP = phthalic acid, diesters with primary, saturated C8-C10 branched alcohols, more than 60% C9; FCM = food contact material or article; SML = specific migration limit; SML(T) = total specific migration limit.

*Not to be used in combination with FCM Nos 157, 159, 283, or 1085 (DIBP).

DIBP is not listed as an authorised substance but may co-occur with other phthalates.

Revised Additional Entries: In addition to the phthalates noted above, the Annex I entries for the FCM substances below have been revised in terms of their specific migration limits (SMLs) and other specifications.

For FCM No 793 – "Triethanolamine" and FCM No 822 – "Perchloric acid, salts(perchlorate)," the individual SML for each has been removed and the entries are referred to as new total specific migration limit—i.e., or SML(T)—Group 37 and Group 38, respectively. Extension of the existing authorisation has been revised for the use of diethyl[[3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl] methyl] phosphonate (FCM No 1007) at up to 0.2% in poly(ethylene 2,5-furandicarboxylate) (PEF).

Similarly, the revisions extend the use of FCM 1076-phosphorous acid, triphenyl ester, polymer with alpha-hydro-omega- hydroxypropyl [oxy (methyl-1,2-ethanediyl)], C10-16 alkyl esters as an additive at up to 0.025% in acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) materials. FCM 1059-Poly((R)-3-hydroxybutyrate-co-(R)-3-hydroxyhexanoate) (PHBH) has also been revised by adding the production method and temperature conditions in the restrictions and specifications.

Addition of New Food Contact Materials (FCM): The latest amendment to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1442 also includes 5 new substances authorised for use in the manufacturing of plastic FCMs:

- FCM No 1078 – "Tris(2-ethylhexyl) benzene-1,2,4-tricarboxylate ester," with a SML of 1 mg/kg and referred to as SML(T) Group 32, is only to be used as plasticiser to manufacture soft poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) and is not to be used in contact with foods intended for infants.
- FCM No 1080 – "(Triethanolamine-perchlorate, sodium salt) dimer," referred to as SML(T) Group 37 and 38, is only to be used in rigid poly(vinyl chloride) in contact with water and acidic aqueous foods.
- FCM No 1081 – "N,N-bis(2- hydroxyethyl)stearyl amine partially esterified with saturated C16/C18 fatty acids," referred to as SML(T) Group 7, is only to be used in plastic polymers with dry foods at room temperature.
- FCM No 1082 – "Phosphoric acid, mixed esters with 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate," is only to be used at up to 0.35% (w/w) to manufacture polymethylmethacrylate. The SML for this substance is 0.05 mg/kg (as sum of mono-, di-, and triesters of phosphoric acid and the mono , di-, tri-, and tetraesters of diphosphoric acid)
- FCM No 1083 – "Benzophenone3,3',4,4'- tetracarboxylic dianhydride" (BTDA) is only to be used at up to 0.35% (w/w) as a co-monomer in the production of polyimides for use in contact with foods for which only simulants B and/or D2 are laid down in Table 2 of Annex III at temperatures up to 250° C. The SML for this substance is 0.05 mg/kg.

Transition Period

To give business operators time to adapt to the changes to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1442, plastic food contact materials complying with Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 can continue to be placed on the market during the transition period, which ends 01 February 2025 (i.e., 18 months after the implementation of the Regulation). Materials placed on the market prior to 01 February 2025 may remain on the market until the exhaustion of stocks. However, within 9 months of the amendment taking effect, business operators that manufacture intermediate products and substances that do not yet comply with the Regulation must inform users that these products, as provided, cannot be used to manufacture plastic materials and articles placed on the market once the 18-month transition period ends.

Link to the Amended Regulation

For more information, visit:

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/··· of 11 July 2023 amending Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, as regards changes to substance authorisations and addition of new substances (europa.eu)

How Intertek Can Help

Please contact Intertek Assuris for additional information on how the changing regulation may affect your products. For more information about our service offerings, visit: https://www.intertek.com/assuris/food-contact/ or contact sunanda.kadam@intertek.com/ tashmi.kadam@intertek.com (+91- 8291049593/+91-8655314708).

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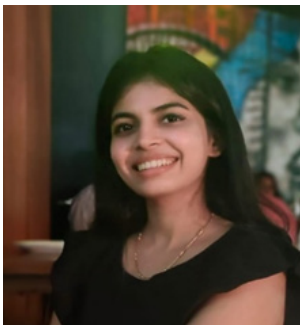
About the Author:



Tashmi Kadam has over five years of experience in quality and regulatory compliance. Currently, she supports clients in Central, South Asia & the Middle East region in complying with the chemical, food contact, environmental regulations. She has been involved in global food contact regulations, keeping track of the regulatory developments, evaluating its impact on the products along with the customers.

She holds a Bachelor's in Microbiology & a Master's, Nutraceuticals (MSc.) from Somaiya University. She has worked with FSSAI in QA-QC field in food and pharma industry. She believes "Regulations can make a better world and it needs to catch up with innovation

Disclaimer: *The content of this article is provided for general information purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon. This article should not be used as a substitute for taking appropriate professional advice on the requirements of the regulation and independent advice should be sought, as appropriate, in relation to compliance with the regulation.*

Shutters and Blinds of Plastics

Shutters and blinds play an important role in the design of home and office windows. They can be made from a variety of materials, including wood, metal, fabric, plastics, etc. Shutters and blinds are used for indoor as well as outdoor spaces, although the way they are built or installed to a window makes these products distinctive. Shutters are highly durable, low maintenance and easy to clean whereas blinds are more versatile, offer complete light control and take up less space. Shutters, blinds (including venetian blinds) and similar articles of plastics are classified under Subheading 392530 of the Harmonized System (HS) of Coding.

World-wide import of Shutters, blinds and similar articles is valued at USD 2.2 billion per year approximately.

- In 2022, top-5 exporting countries of Shutters, blinds and similar articles were: China (21.8%), Belgium (11.9%), Cambodia (11.5%), Viet Nam (10.9%), and Mexico (10.6%).
- Likewise, top-5 importing countries of Shutters, blinds and similar articles were: United States of America (49.0%), United Kingdom (5.0%), Australia (4.8%), France (4.6%), and Netherlands (4.5%).

In 2022-23, India exported 214 tonnes of Shutters, blinds and similar articles valued at USD 1.38 million to the world. United States of America was the top export destination in terms of value while the United Arab Emirates was the top export destination in terms of volume.

Destination Country	Value (USD Mn)	Destination Country	Qty. (tonnes)
United States of America	0.56	United Arab Emirates	49.44
Maldives	0.24	Saudi Arabia	48.63
United Arab Emirates	0.15	United States of America	45.48
Seychelles	0.12	Nepal	15.20
Nepal	0.09	Maldives	12.81
Poland	0.07	Poland	8.74
Malaysia	0.04	Seychelles	7.24
Canada	0.03	Canada	7.12
Netherlands	0.03	Qatar	5.50
Saudi Arabia	0.02	Kuwait	5.10

Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

Product of the month

In 2022-23, India imported 709 tonnes of Shutters, blinds and similar articles valued at USD 4.72 million from the world. China was the top supplier both in terms of value as well as volume.

Source Country	Value (USD Mn)	Source Country	Qty. (tonnes)
China	2.23	China	542.65
Taiwan	0.61	South Korea	42.93
Netherlands	0.53	Taiwan	36.68
South Korea	0.28	Thailand	34.47
Indonesia	0.22	Indonesia	14.05
Thailand	0.16	Netherlands	11.69
Australia	0.13	Türkiye	8.59
Italy	0.09	Hong Kong	7.32
Singapore	0.09	Italy	3.62
Türkiye	0.09	Australia	2.66

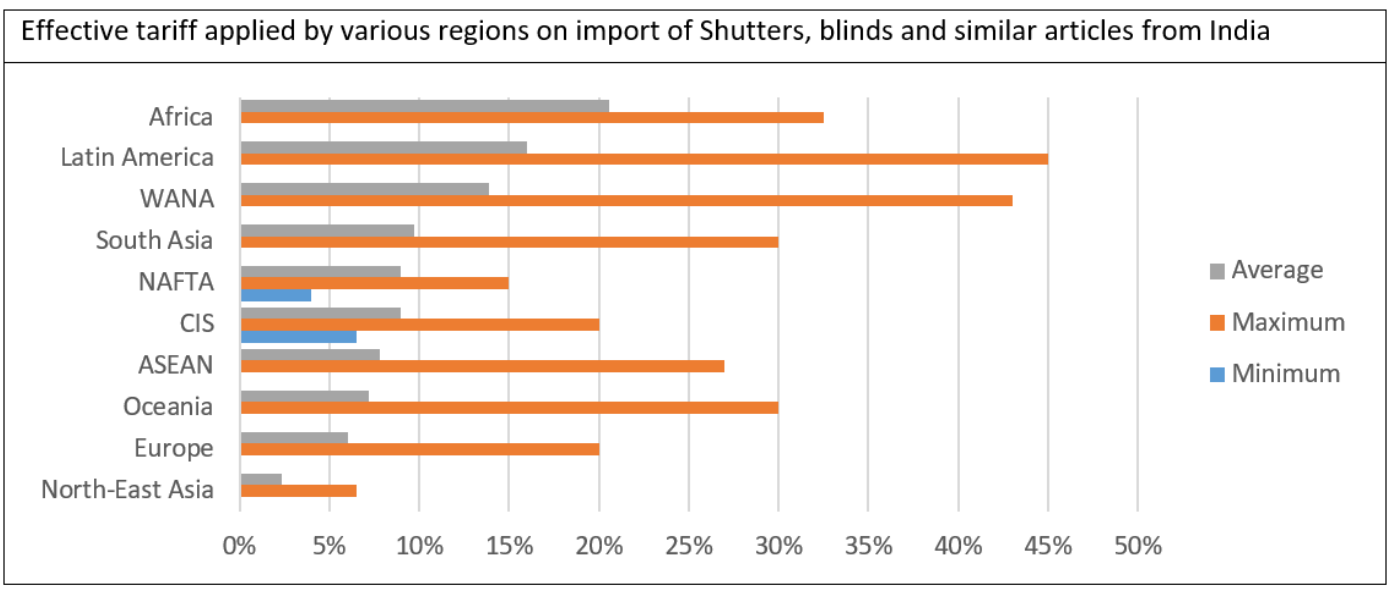
Source: Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Plexconcil Research

Indian firms dealing in Shutters, blinds and similar articles have immense potential to export to destinations like Australia, Israel, Japan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom.

There is zero duty applicable on import of Shutters, blinds and similar articles from India in the United Kingdom under Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS). Import of this product is eligible for zero customs duty in Australia under India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement and in Japan, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates under Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Further, Thailand offers preferential duty on imports of Shutters, blinds and similar articles from India under the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. Shutters, blinds and similar articles are eligible for zero customs duty in Israel and Singapore. Indian exporters should also target the GCC nations like Qatar and Saudi Arabia as the potential for export of this product is high to these countries. It may be noted that Saudi Arabia is already the second largest export destination for Shutters, blinds and similar articles in terms of volume from India. The BCD for this product is 5% in both of these countries.

Unfortunately, some countries in Africa, Latin America, WANA, and NAFTA region do not accord any preferential treatment to Shutters, blinds and similar articles imported from India due to which the average customs duty faced on this product is high.

Effective tariff applied by various regions on import of Shutters, blinds and similar articles from India



Source: Market Access Map, Plexconcil Research

How the Auto Industry Is Embracing Plastic Recycling

The Audi A3's seat covers are made with material primarily recycled from PET plastic bottles.

Turning post-consumer plastic products into new auto parts keeps plastic out of the waste stream.

The dual needs to reduce the consumption of new resources in creating plastic products and to reduce the eventual creation of plastic waste when products have been used drive the pursuit of recycled materials in the auto industry.

Plastics are pervasive in modern vehicles, creating the opportunity for significant reuse of plastic. We've seen this in the case of the Ford Bronco Sport, which employs recycled plastic from recovered fishing nets in its wiring harness clips. The aim is to expand use of the material into other applications such as engine covers. The ultimate potential is for as much as 700 lbs. of plastic per vehicle to be created from recycled materials, according to Ford technical expert Alper Kiziltas, with about 10 percent of that eligible to be made using the recycled fishing net material.

Reusing Wreckage

Some more visible applications of recycled plastics in new automotive parts are in the cars' interiors, where consumers will see the materials during every drive. Audi has partnered with LyondellBasell, the world's largest producer of polymer products, to produce plastic seat belt buckle covers for the Q8 e-tron EV using plastic recovered from parts of crashed Audis.

"As part of the PlasticLoop project, we are working with Audi to establish an innovative closed-loop process, recycling plastic automotive parts for use in new vehicles," said Erik Licht, LyondellBasell Advanced Polymer Solutions New Business Development Director. "For the first time, we are using chemical recycling to recycle mixed automotive plastic waste into plastic granulate for automotive interior applications," he said. "The plastic granulate is then used in the production of the seatbelt buckle covers for the Audi Q8 e-tron."

"We want to use secondary material wherever it is technically possible, ecologically feasible, and of course, environmentally friendly," said Philip Eder, project manager for circular economy procurement strategy at Audi. "Recycling is not that easy, because as you can imagine, if something is mixed up, it is not that easy to separate it again."

PET Water Bottles

The polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic used in plastic bottles is a more homogenous source of post-consumer plastic that Audi is also using. The company uses that PET in combination with residual textiles, and fabric selvages recovered from manufacturing plants to create Kaskade, a new fabric material that provides the soft surface and three-dimensional texture

of natural fiber materials such as wool.

Kaskade cannot be made from entirely recycled materials, but the company strives to maximize the recycled portion of the material mix, reports Christine Maier of Audi Design. “We used only as much new polyester and as many new resources as was technically necessary,” she said. “The result is a fabric that is reminiscent of wool and natural fibers, and has a very pleasant feel.”

Audi

Recycled selvage materials can be recombined into new yard and woven into seat fabric.

The recovered selvage fabric comes from a plant making automotive products, so the material is already automotive-grade. Audi separates these into black and white components, using them to create an anthracite-colored blend that requires no additional dye. “We leave out another chemical process, which is better for the environment,” noted Maier.

Audi said that the company strives to procure well-sorted PET waste that is of high purity and then they process to avoid any minor impurities in the filament process. This could result in fiber inhomogeneity and potentially make the fabric unattractive. An advantage of using recycled PET is that it is abundant, which is an important consideration for an industry still bedeviled by supply headaches.

Finding the Right Mix

The selvage material, PET, and new polyester combine to create new yarn that is used to make the Kaskade seat cover fabric. The final product contains 15 percent selvage material, 35 percent PET, and 50 percent new polyester. “We performed a lot of tests to see how high the portion of selvages can be while ensuring the fabric still looks flawless,” Maier explained.

Audi started making seat covers using recycled materials for the fourth-generation A3. Those seat covers contain as much as 89 percent recycled material, using plastic from 45 1.5-liter PET plastic bottles. Then there are the additional 62 PET bottles that are recycled for the car’s carpet.

Ford Snares a New Source of Plastics in Recovered Fishing Nets

The carpeting and floor mats in the Audi e-tron GT are made of Econyl – a material that consists of 100 percent recycled nylon fibers from production waste, fabric and carpet scraps, or old fishing nets.

Audi acknowledges that one of the hurdles en route to a circular economy is that the cost of these recycled materials is higher than for virgin materials. Energy consumption in the process is about the same as for virgin materials, so efficiency is not an obstacle, according to the company.

Faurecia’s Seat for the Planet

Auto industry supplier Faurecia aims to use recycled materials throughout the entire seat and to make those same materials easier to separate at the seat’s end-of-life for future reuse and recycling. The company’s “Seat for the Planet” is a project that has created a lightweight seat that is about 15 percent lighter than a conventional seat.

It is made from ten modules each made entirely of a single material, made from bio-sourced or recycled materials, or from materials that are compatible for recycling, according to project manager Marthin Frétigné. Conventional seats are made using between 100 and 150 separate parts. The polyurethane used in seat cushions is especially challenging to replace with something earth-friendly. “This material performs well but is very difficult to recycle” said Frétigné. “So we had to replace it with a technical solution called Auraloop, incorporating high-performance PET combined with a new transformation process”.

Auraloop is Faurecia’s planned cushioning material that is made from a structure of recyclable polyester-based fibers. In addition to recyclability, Auraloop has the advantage of using half as much energy as polyurethane in its manufacturing process, according to the company, and they promise that it is even more comfortable and durable. It is made in partnership with Thai chemical company Indorama Ventures.

"Auraloop will replace those materials currently used in car seating with innovative and sustainable materials, based on polyester fibers, that offer a total recyclability of 100 percent," pledged Nicolas Michot, Director of Technology at Faurecia Seating. The material should reach the market in two or three years, he said.

Volkswagen's Paper Chase

In addition to recycling plastic materials, there is also the potential for the substitution of non-plastic components for automotive interiors. Volkswagen is currently experimenting with the idea of using recycled paper products as the source of reinforcing fibers in its plastics. Indeed, the Golf employs natural fibers in the map pocket on the car's door panels.

The goal is to replace those natural fibers with the fibers recovered from recycled paper, reported Hendrik Mainka, who heads Volkswagen's new Knoxville, Tenn. Innovation Hub. "The disadvantage of these [natural] materials is that even if they are already better, the natural fibers are grown in specific regions. Some come from India or Indonesia. You have a long logistics chain."

Volkswagen

The hub team of Volkswagen and University of Tennessee researchers is developing recyclable alternatives to plastic parts and foils in the vehicle interior using paper. Such long logistics might have been tolerable before the Covid pandemic, but now manufacturing companies want to keep their supply chains as short as possible. "The idea is to replace some of these natural fiber components with paper," which is available everywhere.

Additionally, recycled paper is more consistent than natural fibers, he pointed out. "With paper, you are eliminating this factor because it is highly industrialized," said Mainka. The cost of using recycled paper, however, is highly variable, depending on the location, so that is an area of research for VW. "We have a PhD student now working on the cost," he said.

Source: This article has been reproduced from Plastics Today

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International News

Bioplastics Startup Verde Takes 'Disruptive' Path to Circular Economy

Verde Bioresins, a California bioplastics startup, is aiming to change the circularity game with its novel range of biodegradable PolyEarthylene resins. The new resins hit the market in April, and Verde is already expecting to "substantially increase" sales volume and capacity in the fourth quarter of this year.

Founded in 2020, Verde is "a full-service bioplastics company specializing in sustainable materials, innovation, and state-of-the-art manufacturing with its proprietary, and potentially industry-disrupting, bio-based, renewable, and sustainable PolyEarthylene resin," explained President and COO Brian D. Gordon.

"PolyEarthylene aims to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable and circular economy, addressing nearly half of the $600 billion global plastics market that is faced with mounting regulatory pressure for eco-friendly solutions. Our proprietary technology converts sustainable plant-based materials into a portfolio of PolyEarthylene biopolymers — each tailored to achieve a specific set of physical and mechanical performance goals."

Verde's bio-based, landfill-biodegradable resins are, for the most part, curbside recyclable, Gordon noted. Other bio-based resins (nylons and elastomers) on the market "do not focus on some of the other important factors. Verde's focus is replacement of traditional polyethylene and polypropylene "for most, if not all, general applications."

PolyEarthylene resins "can be designed to decompose on a highly accelerated basis due to the action of naturally occurring micro-organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, providing Verde with a true end-of-life solution," Gordon explained.

Going public, finding partners

With headquarters in Los Angeles and a manufacturing facility in Fullerton, CA, Verde was taken public by a SPAC (special-purpose acquisitions company) called TLGY Acquisition Corp. and will trade on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol VRDE.

Verde President and COO Brian Gordon.

"It is a pleasure to work with top-notch operators at TLGY that understand Verde's positioning in the market and the impact PolyEarthylene can have on the market and the world," Gordon enthused. "Once public, Verde Bioresins Corp. will provide us with better access to the capital markets and will enable us to better attract and retain great talent."

In fact, Verde announced deals with Braskem and Vinmar in June.

"We are very fortunate to work with leading companies that have prioritized sustainability as a significant part of their business," Gordon said. "These world-class partners are committed to helping Verde extend the market for sustainable products and doing well by doing good. Braskem is helping us to expand our offerings and the quality of our products, and Vinmar is enabling us to reach markets that would otherwise take years to penetrate."

Aggressive growth plan

Verde has hit the ground running, Gordon explained, by working directly with companies in shipping, beauty and personal care, consumer products, agriculture, electronics, merchandising, clothing, trash and resealable bags, and food and beverage packaging — from single-use straws to silverware and cups.

"Verde is working with dozens of other companies through our incredible distribution partnership with Vinmar Polymers America and Vinmar International. We do a lot of the initial work in-house in our research and development labs and with conversion equipment. Following successful lab size trials, we work with some of the largest converters in the United States to perform volume trials to ensure our products are drop-in ready. We have primarily focused our volume trials with some of the largest blown-film converters, sheet extruders, and thermoformers. We have also done extensive injection molding and blow molding trials."

Already, he added, several large blown-film converters have run tens of thousands of bags — draw string, reusable handle, and T-shirt bags with seals — including full-color printing with 80% coverage.

PolyEarthylene comes in standard grades to replace general HDPE, LDPE, LLDPE, and PP.

Source: Plastics Today

Partnership Expands PHA Bioplastics in Cosmetic Packaging

CJ Biomaterials, Inc., a primary producer of polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA) biopolymers and a division of South Korea-based CJ CheilJedang, is working with Riman Korea to blend its patented PHA technology with polylactic acid (PLA) to create packaging for Riman's premium line of IncellDerm products. The new packaging is more environmentally friendly and helps reduce Riman's use of fossil-fuel based packaging for its skin care products in line with Riman's sustainable packaging initiatives.

CJ Biomaterials' PHAs are naturally derived and produced sustainably. They are used as building blocks to replace and improve the functional characteristics of a broad range of polymers in the production of finished goods or as starting points for sustainable chemistry.

PHAs work well as modifiers to other polymers or biopolymers and can be used to increase bio-based content, accelerate biodegradation, and improve the functional properties of resins and finished products. The company produces its PHA under the brand name PHACT, which stands for PHA + Action, demonstrating CJ Biomaterials' commitment to sustainablilty.

"This collaboration with Riman showcases the versatility of our PHA biopolymers while reinforcing our commitment to reduce plastic waste and the world's reliance on petroleum-based technology," says Max Senechal, Chief Commercial Officer at CJ Biomaterials. "Together, we aim to make a significant impact on the cosmetic packaging landscape, promoting a more sustainable and eco-friendly future."

Collaboration will broaden to develop 100% PHA solutions for injection molding applications.

The combined PLA-PHA material will be used to package IncellDerm Active Cream EX, Dermatology First Package Booster EX and Vieton Oil Mist, all offered through Riman IncellDerm brand. These three products alone account for more than 5.4 million unit-sales each year, and the company plans to gradually expand use

of CJ Biomaterials' PHA across more of its product line. CJ Biomaterials and Riman also intend to broaden their collaboration to develop 100% PHA solutions for injection molding applications.

"Sustainability and sustainable practices are no longer trends, but rather, necessities," explains Betty Perez, General Manager, Riman North America. "To do our part in alleviating the negative impact companies have had on the planet for years, we pledge to support our environment by any means necessary and to invest in our future and in the quality of life for future generations, even with the expected increase in costs and technical challenges. This responsibility starts with adopting a 'first-of-its kind' biodegradable material to replace more than 5.4 million pieces of packaging consumed annually. By no means an easy feat, we accept this as an obligation and will actively seek ways to continue to contribute to environmental protection. To us, sustainability is not simply a goal; it's a part of who we are and who we aim to be as a personal care and wellness company, for the people, and for their planet."

It's another in a series of collaborations CJ Biomaterials has entered to develop products based on its PHA technology. Over the past year, the company has also announced agreements with NatureWorks, Dongil Platech, Banila Co., CJ Olive Young, and others.

Source: Plastics Today

Wittmann Battenfeld Debuts Energy-Efficient Press at Fakuma

Wittmann Battenfeld is showcasing advances in energy-efficient injection molding at the international plastics processing tradeshow Fakuma in Friedrichshafen, Germany, from Oct. 17 to 21. The company notably will lay out an eight-station "energy efficiency path" in booth 1204 in hall B1. One of the highlights is the new EcoPower B8X injection molding system, which will make its debut at the event.

Reduced energy consumption

The EcoPower B8X offers several advantages in addition to a further reduction in energy consumption compared with previous systems. The new injection unit pivots, and lubrication is oil- rather than grease-based, reducing mechanical resistance. In combination with a range of additional injection unit sizes, this reportedly has a positive effect on the energy balance. The design of the toggle lever has been optimized in terms of dynamism and service life. The faster injection units in combination with the highly dynamic toggle lever enable extremely short cycle times, according to Wittmann Battenfeld.

The B8X control system comes with several system components developed in-house that enable a higher internal clock frequency, resulting in shorter response times to sensor signals and, thus, improved reproducibility.

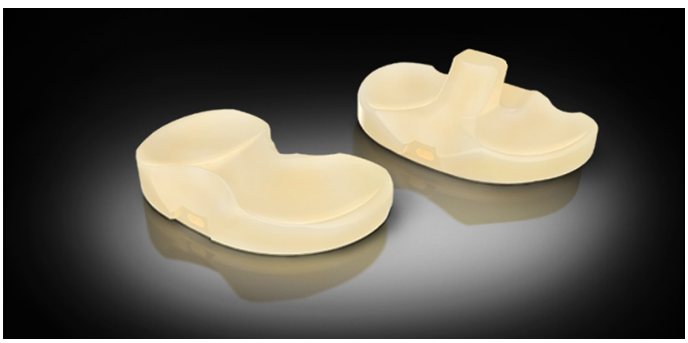
Fakuma marks the debut of the EcoPower B8X on the European market in sizes ranging from 550 to 1800 kN. The functionality of the new EcoPower B8X will be demonstrated at Fakuma on an EcoPower 110/350 B8X in combination with the new WX90 Wittmann sprue picker, designed as an Insider cell with integrated parts chute and S-Max screenless granulator, plus a WFC120 flow controller. The production cell will produce a bracket for a climbing net using an eight-cavity mold supplied by Austrian company Lechner. The sprue will be removed and transported directly to the integrated granulator by the WX90, which is also integrated in the B8X control system. Following grinding of the sprue, the material is fed back into the process.

Source: Plastics Today

New Polyethylene for Knee-Implant System Cleared by FDA

Orthopedic implant and instrument company Exactech announced on Aug. 21 that it has received 510(k) clearance from FDA for its new Activit-E polyethylene (PE) for the Truliant knee-replacement system. The new PE with vitamin E antioxidant does not require gamma sterilization, unlike previous formulations of the material.

"After years of research and development in polyethylene, Activit-E represents a breakthrough achievement for Exactech," said Adam Hayden, chief marketing officer and senior vice president of the Large Joints Business Unit at Exactech. "It is the next generation of highly cross-linked polyethylene with vitamin E antioxidant that is intended to further our primary goal of providing immense benefits to our patients."



The chemically cross-linked polyethylene brings strength, toughness, oxidative resistance, and long-term performance to the Truliant knee-replacement system.

The chemically cross-linked PE reportedly brings an optimized balance of material strength and toughness without requiring the use of gamma sterilization. The material is designed to maintain active oxidative resistance and long-term performance, including strength and stabilization, according to Exactech.

The PE was developed by Orhun Muratoglu, PhD, director of the Harris Orthopaedic Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Muratoglu invented the first cross-linked PE, and the first of multiple generations of vitamin E, antioxidant PE for leading orthopedic companies, said the news release.

"We replaced gamma radiation cross linking with peroxide cross linking and stabilized the poly with vitamin E to provide strength, flexibility, and toughness where it is needed most — total knee arthroplasty," said Muratoglu. "This technology also addressed the looming shortage of gamma radiation for cross-linking, ensuring that patients will continue to benefit from the clinically proven advantages of highly cross-linked polyethylene in total joints," said Muratoglu.

As reported in sister media outlet MD+DI, in recent years there has been tightness in the supply of cobalt-60, the radioactive isotope that generates the gamma radiation used to sterilize healthcare products. Core to the process, cobalt-60 is produced in a handful of nuclear reactors and specialized suppliers. The shortage is a result of increasing demand and the decision of one state-run corporation to reduce output, reported MD+DI.

Activit-E launched in the beginning of Q3 2023 for select US customers, with global expansion set to start in 2024.

Based in Gainesville, FL, Exactech develops and markets orthopedic implant devices, related surgical instruments, and the Active Intelligence platform of smart technologies to hospitals and physicians.

Source: Plastics Today

Berry Global develops 100% recycled PET bottles for luxury water brand

NEUE Water has been consciously conceived for today's modern, on-the-go lifestyle. As well as its recycled content, the unique ergonomic flat shape of the bottle enables it to fit easily into pockets, bags and seatback storage in planes and trains. Equally important, the bottle's sturdy construction makes it suitable for refilling for multiple use, and it can be recycled at its end of life.

Berry claims its technical expertise and its longstanding experience in using recycled plastic were both critical in realising the original design concept from NEUE Water's founder Michael Lowers. The flat shape challenged the injection stretch blow moulding (ISBM) process for traditional PET bottle manufacture, and Berry successfully adapted the technology in order to accommodate the new design.

The attractive bottle shape also features an uninterrupted convex window on one side, that magnifies the label area for the six limited-edition artist labels to deliver an eye-catching product on shelf. The artwork will continue to change around the fashion seasons. The inaugural collection features six vibrant one-of-a-kind prints by Berlin-based artist Studio Raaad.

“In launching NEUE Water, we are improving the carbon impact of the historical packaging materials for mineral waters,” said Michael Lowers. “Our water allows consumers to hydrate consciously on the go, with a bottle that uses no new plastic and is recyclable. In this way, we are championing the move to a more circular economy.

“Bringing the bottle design concept to life was not easy, but the team at Berry rose to the challenge and have been hugely supportive throughout the project. The end result is brilliant – a fantastic looking bottle that perfectly combines style with sustainability.”

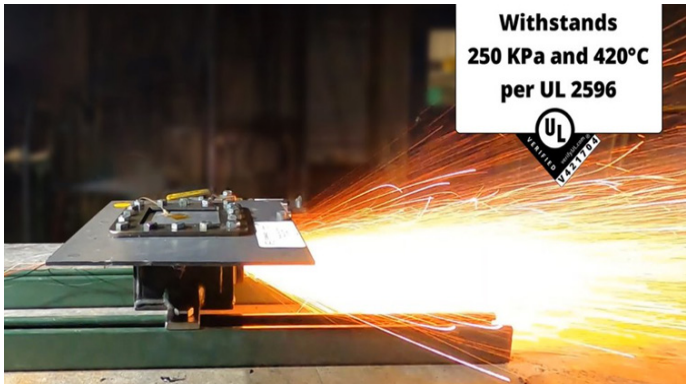
NEUE Water sold out within its first week of launching at Harrods, and won multiple awards, including gold for design at the Fine Water Society’s annual Taste and Design Awards, and a Good Brand Award from Sublime Magazine for Advancing Social & Environmental Sustainability.

“The case for using 100% rPET for our bottles is incontrovertible,” concluded Michael Lowers. “We needed a company like Berry with the skills and determination to make it happen. Together, we were able to produce a functional and stylish bottle that matches today’s lifestyle perfectly in terms of both its convenience and sustainability.”

Source: Interplas Insights

SABIC resin is first polymer to earn a UL verified mark for thermal runaway protection

SABIC has announced that its STAMAX 30YH570 resin has earned the UL Verified Mark from Underwriters Laboratories. This 30 percent glass fiber-reinforced copolymer resin, a featured product offered under the company’s BLUEHERO electrification initiative, is the first polymer used in electric vehicle (EV) battery systems to receive UL Verification for marketing claims of thermal and mechanical performance. UL Verification, based on an objective, scientific assessment by a respected third party, can give customers high confidence in the flame delay performance of this product, according to the company.



The vast majority of EV batteries perform without issues throughout their useful life. Although thermal runaway incidents are extremely infrequent, the safety-conscious automotive industry is highly focused on ensuring that the design and performance of EV battery systems prolong the time available to exit a vehicle by delaying the propagation of a fire beyond the battery pack for as long as possible. A key consideration is the proper selection and deployment of fire protection materials used for battery pack components, including enclosures and covers, trays, thermal barriers that separate cells into groups, etc.

According to Venkatakrishnan Umamaheswaran (UV), SABIC’s global Automotive Marketing director: “UL Verification for the thermal runaway protection of STAMAX 30YH570 resin is a significant milestone in our development of polymer materials for today’s rapidly evolving EV battery systems. This recognition not only underscores the exceptional performance and safety features of our polymer, but also reinforces the importance of our BLUEHERO initiative. By providing cost-effective, lightweight plastic solutions, SABIC is helping to advance EV technology.”

Thermal runaway box testing according to UL 2596, Test Method for Thermal and Mechanical Performance of Battery Enclosure Materials, demonstrated that STAMAX 30YH570 resin withstood an internal box pressure of 250 kPa and an internal box temperature of 420° C. Results were based on three replicate tests, with a panel thickness of 4mm. The SABIC material features an intumescent capability that the company claims helps with fire suppression. Its other key properties include high stiffness and strength and easy processing.

This UL Verification serves as further validation of SABIC's continued progress under its BLUEHERO initiative in demonstrating the performance advantages of thermoplastics over outdated steel and other metals for battery packs. These benefits include weight and cost reduction, increased functional integration, and enhanced electrical and thermal insulation.
Source: Interplas Insights

AIMPLAS' BioICEP Project turns non-biodegradable plastics into new biobased materials

The Plastics Technology Centre has applied methods based on microwaves and reactive extrusion that accelerate biodegradation of conventional plastics. The goal of the project is to develop sustainable and environmentally friendly alternatives to traditional petroleum-based plastics.

The project used a cascade process by applying and combining chemical and biological methods to turn fossil-based plastic waste into natural, biodegradable substitutes to be used in the packaging and pharma industries.

The role of AIMPLAS in the project involved the pretreatment of plastics using microwave-assisted thermochemical degradation. This new technology provided promising results by turning non-biodegradable plastic waste (such as low-density polyethylene) into easily biodegradable materials. AIMPLAS claims that they achieved total degradation in less than 28 days. Another technique used was the depolymerization of polyamides to obtain the monomers of these polymers. Microorganisms are then able to degrade these monomers so they can be turned into products of interest such as bioplastics.

Likewise, AIMPLAS says it used reactive extrusion technologies that made changes to the structure of the polymeric chains to improve biodegradation of these plastics. AIMPLAS is also the coordinator in charge of dissemination and exploitation of results, as well as communication activities.

BioICEP met the goal of developing processes to reduce the amount of plastic waste in the environment. With this in mind, the project was made up of partners from different countries and areas of knowledge who were able to address the challenge of developing alternative processes to improve recycling based on a multidisciplinary approach, which was essential for project success.

The solution proposed by the BioICEP project focused on the use of three technologies that enhance, accelerate and increase the degradation of plastics to 'levels far beyond what is currently possible.' A triple-action depolymerization system broke down plastic waste through three consecutive processes. The first consisted of chemical disintegration processes, including a new microwave-based technology that reduces the molecular weight of base polymers to improve biodegradation. The second process was biocatalytic digestion with improved enzymes using different innovative techniques, including screening with fluorescent sensors and directed evolution. Finally, in the third process, microbial consortia developed from 'best-in-class' single microbial strains were used in combination to produce the highly efficient degradation of mixed plastic waste streams. The products of this degradation process will be used for the synthesis of new polymers and bioproducts to enable a new plastic waste-based circular economy.

Source: Interplas Insights

Milestone Scientific uses Cyrolite to produce "magic wand"

Some people do not go the dentist for a fear of syringes, thereby risking a worsening of untreated tooth damage. However, some dental practices offer patients an alternative – a device for computer-controlled, pain-free local anaesthesia, which its developers call a "magic wand": The Wand – STA System from Milestone Scientific.

For the past 25 years, the US-based company specialising in injection technology has been manufacturing the system's single-use components from CYROLITE by Röhm – a transparent, acrylic-based plastic especially for medical applications.

Proven material for medical technology

"All types of CYROLITE meet the stringent USP Class VI material standard and the ISO 10993-1 standard for plastics used in pharmaceutical and medical technology. They are free from bisphenol A, are biocompatible and have ultra-low extractables and leachables characteristics in addition to great chemical resistance," explains Michael Zadrozny, strategic account manager medical at Röhm. "CYROLITE moulding compounds are used to manufacture diagnostic equipment, as well as disposable devices such as IV connectors, Y-sites, and luer locks, catheter components, filter housings and syringes." Two parts of the hand piece of The Wand STA are also made of CYROLITE: the cartridge for the anaesthetic container, which is secured in the device by a bayonet lock, and the applicator, a roughly 20-centimetre-long (8-inch) thin tube at the end of which is a thin injection needle.

For injections without pressure pain

STA stands for Single Tooth Anaesthesia System. The device not only allows pain-free injections, but also the precise anaesthetisation of individual teeth. This offers the benefit that once the treatment has ended, larger sections of the jaw including the cheeks are not numb for several hours. According to Milestone Scientific, the entire procedure is more comfortable for patients than conventional syringe injections.

Although all dentists are likely convinced that they can carry out pain-free injections by hand, pushing the injection liquid into human tissue can cause enormous pressure. This is the painful burst-effect so many patients are afraid of. The slower the injection is applied, the lower the level of pain. When local anaesthesia is applied with a syringe, patients must rely on the intuition and sensitivity of the treating physician. With the STA system, the computer controls the optimal needle position, exit pressure of tip of the needle and the flow rate of the anaesthetic so precisely and evenly that patients hardly notice what is happening. The dentist must merely guide the applicator with the cannula to the injection site and activate the device via a foot pedal.

CYROLITE enables light yet stable components

Compared to the bulky cylinder ampule syringes with stainless steel housing, The Wand – STA System's applicator made of CYROLITE is as light as a feather. The injection device is easy to handle thanks to its low weight and pen-like shape. Like other dental instruments, dentists can hold the long, thin "magic wand" between three fingertips and execute precise bi-rotational movements.

Milestone Scientific offers specific hand pieces for all commonly used anaesthesia technologies. Applicators with flexible length adjustments have proven especially practical: These models with tubes made of CYROLITE have multiple notches (predetermined breaking points) and can be shortened by snapping them off. This is convenient when applying a local anaesthesia to numb the front teeth and makes it easier to treat children and nervous patients. "Dentists can hide the end with the needle in their hand and numb the damaged tooth virtually unnoticed, actually like a magician with a magic wand," states Tom Cheng, who is responsible for product development and production at Milestone Scientific.

Very good flow characteristics during injection moulding

The processing properties of CYROLITE GS-90 support the continuous development of the product design of the The Wand - STA System's hand pieces. With a high heat deflection temperature and excellent melt flow rate, the moulding compound is ideal for precise injection moulding and extrusion of thin-walled and complex moulded parts with high stability. This CYROLITE grade is especially impact resistant. Furthermore, it is compatible for direct contact with body fluids, many chemicals, and drugs – in this case anaesthetics. Components made of CYROLITE moulding compounds can be solvent and thermal bonded as well as ultrasonic or spin-welded to PVC hoses and other plastic components.

Undiminished transparency after gamma sterilisation

The hand pieces used for The Wand are designed for single use and are delivered in sterile packaging. This is why the outstanding material resistance of CYROLITE GS-90 exhibited during sterilisation with gamma rays (although it is also suited for EtO gas and E-beam sterilisation) was a crucial factor in Milestone Scientific's decision to select this medical plastic from Röhm. "During our material testing, CYROLITE GS-90 was still absolutely transparent, without any cloudiness, discolouration or embrittlement, after a three-year stability test," Cheng confirms. He also explains why it is so important that the components are transparent: "The transparent cartridge allows the dentist to see whether the anaesthetic is being delivered. And the transparent tube of the applicator allows them to visually check that the needle has not hit a blood vessel during the injection."

Source: MPN

India's hinterland key to unlocking export potential: Former trade negotiator Abhijit Das

The road to expanding and reaching wide export markets goes actually through the Indian hinterland, Abhijit Das, former trade negotiator and head of Centre for WTO Studies at IIFT has said.

"What constrains our current exports is an infrastructure deficiency along with a tedious logistics cost which makes India's exports uncompetitive to the global market thereby preventing other countries from choosing Indian goods," he added. Das was speaking at Moneycontrol's PolicyNext session on Trade De-globalisation on August 25.

However, per him, the government has begun taking conscious steps to remove these hindrances. "It is a matter of 4-5 years when Indian exports will see a steep surge. This surge which we see then, will be much more than what we may see through bilateral free trade agreements and market accesses we get via them," Das said.

India has signed and is in the process of negotiating free trade agreements (FTA) with nearly half a dozen countries including developed economies of the UK, Canada, European Union and Australia as well as other smaller regions in the LAC countries while also looking at re-negotiating its FTA with ASEAN.

The Reserve Bank of India has projected a 6.5 percent growth for this fiscal for the country while the World Bank's projection is 6.3 percent.

The country's growth, as per Jason Oxman, CEO & President, ITI Council, has risen on the back of its digitisation programme. "The programme is nothing short of miraculous. This is going to power India towards the goal of being a 1 trillion-dollar economy," he said.

"The UPI is giving access to hundreds of millions of people who never had it before. Education, workforce development and access to healthcare are all moving ahead," Oxman added. Per him, it is the country's digital as well as physical side combined that will lead the country's growth.

"India's PLI programme is very focused on ensuring manufacturing in India. It has been successful for mobile and is moving to broader regions like laptops and PCs. On both digital and physical side, programmes are helping to develop in India," he added.

India's overall exports, buoyed by the services sector, rose 14 percent to a record $770 billion during the FY23, while imports jumped to a new high of $892 billion, amid a slowdown in goods demand due to the global headwinds. Of the total exports, while merchandise exports made up $447 billion, the remaining worth $323 billion were supported by the country's services exports.

But the country very well holds the potential to take services exports to the same level as its merchandise exports, Somnath Mukherjee, Managing Partner and CIO, ASK Advisors added, speaking at the panel.

"This is a real possibility with services companies now setting up shop in India instead of outsourcing jobs to India. India, in services, is fairly cost-competitive and one of the few countries which can offer scale. India's financial services have been world class for a long time. America did not have online stock trading until recently. We introduced it in 1990s," he added.

As per Richard McCallum, CEO of the UK India Business Council, the only thing India needs to update is people's thinking overseas about the development India has seen with the well-built roads and its digital transformation.

Source: Money Control

India's Trade Deficit Falling Rapidly, Coming Months To See High Export Growth: Union Minister Piyush Goyal

The Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on August 25, 2023 said that India's trade deficit is falling at a rapid pace and the exports are expected to see positive growth in the coming months.

"Countries in the world are facing a slowdown and global trade is relatively weak right now. Given the challenging situation, high interest rates, and cut down in discretionary spending have led to a fall in the exports of readymade apparel and the gem and jewellery sector," he told PTI.

All in all, trade continues to be robust, our trade deficit is falling rapidly. And India will continue to benefit significantly from our global outreach, he said.

When asked if he expects the country's merchandise exports to come in positive growth from September, he said, "I do believe it is possible".

India's exports contracted by 15.88 per cent in July, the sixth straight month of decline, to USD 32.25 billion this year due to a global slowdown and a fall in shipments of key sectors like petroleum, and gems and jewellery.

Imports during the month also declined by 17 per cent, the eighth month of fall in a row, to USD 52.92 billion from USD 63.77 billion in July 2022. This led to a narrowing of the trade deficit to USD 20.67 billion against USD 25.43 billion in July 2022.

Source: KNN Bureau

Engineering exports to Russia more than doubled to $123.6 mn in July: EEPC

Engineering goods exports to Russia continued its uptrend and more than doubled to USD 123.65 million in July 2023 as against USD 55.65 million in the corresponding period a year ago, according to data released by EEPC.

During the same period this year, engineering exports to the US declined 10.4 per cent on-year to USD 1.44 billion, it said.

Engineering shipments to China during in July also fell 10 per cent year-on-year to USD 197.98 million, the data released by the Engineering Export Promotion Council showed.

Among the 25 key markets for Indian engineering goods, which contribute to more than 76 per cent of total exports, 14 countries witnessed a year-on-year decline in July, it said.

India's overall engineering exports dropped 6.62 per cent to USD 8.75 billion in the month under review from USD 9.37 billion in the year-earlier period.

This was mainly due to a fall in exports of iron, steel and aluminium coupled with reduced global demand, EEPC said.

EEPC India Chairman Arun Kumar Garodia said in such a situation, there is a need for the country to diversify into other markets.

"Eight consecutive months of y-o-y decline since December 2022 reflects the depressing scenario of global trade. It is an opportunity for the Indian exporters to diversify into the African and Latin American markets, he said.

Source: Business Standard

MSME share recovers to near 30% in India's GDP after significant decline in FY21

The share of the 6.3-crore strong micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) sector's gross value added in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has climbed back to near 30 per cent. After declining to 27.2 per cent in FY21 from 30.5 per cent in FY20 and FY19, the share recovered to 29.2 per cent in FY22, according to the data from the MSME ministry in a statement. The share had increased from 29.25 per cent in FY17 to 29.69 per cent in FY18.

The recovery assumes significance as the government intends to increase MSMEs' share in the GDP. Former MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari in 2020 had set a target of increasing the sector's share in exports to 60 per cent from 48 per cent and 5 crore additional jobs apart from the jump in GDP share to 40 per cent by 2025.

As per the World Economic Outlook (WEO) database of the International Monetary Fund, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to reach $5.15 trillion by 2027 from $3.39 trillion in 2022.

In terms of manufacturing, the share of MSME manufacturing output in all India manufacturing output during 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 was 36.6 per cent, 36.9 per cent and 36.2 per cent respectively.

As per the data from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), the ministry noted the share of export of MSME-specified products in all India exports during the year 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 at 49.4 per cent, 45.0 per cent and 43.6 per cent respectively. The data was shared by Minister of State in MSME Ministry Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha earlier this month.

While the export share dropped, the value of MSME exports had increased to $190 billion in FY22 from $143.9 billion in FY21 and $154.8 billion in FY20. For the uninitiated, the share of the MSME sector in India's total exports does not comprise MSME goods only. It has a contribution from large enterprises also, Prafulla Chandra Mishra, Statistical Advisor, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Department of Commerce had said at an event organised by FE Aspire in February this year.

The country's "MSME-related export" was $189,768 million during FY22 as compared to $143,823 million during FY21, registering a positive growth of 31.9 per cent, according to the data shared by Mishra.

However, for exports of items reserved for manufacturing by MSMEs or exclusive to MSMEs, the share in India's total exports dropped from 9.1 per cent amounting to $26.4 million in FY21 and to 7.7 per cent in FY22 amounting to $32.6 million, he said.

Source: FE

Self-reliance in toys: 52% drop in toy imports in 9 years, 6x jump in exports, says MSME Min Narayan Rane

MSME Minister Narayan Rane hailing the toy sector's performance over the past nine years said toy imports have witnessed a decline of 52 per cent while exports have jumped sixfold. The minister shared a post of Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency, on X (previously Twitter).
"With a remarkable 52% reduction in toy imports over

the last 9 years and a sixfold increase in toy exports, India strides boldly towards Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's dream of a self-reliant nation. Guided by an unwavering vision of progress, 9600+ registered MSME units are actively reshaping our country into a vibrant toy production hub," Rane posted.

According to the data from the Ministry of Commerce

and Industry, the import of toys declined from $257.65 million in the financial year 2013-14 to $62.39 million in the financial Year 2022-23, registering a 75 per cent drop. On the other hand, exports increased from $36.91 million in 2013-14 to $153.88 million in 2022-23.

Earlier in February this year, Customs authorities tightened the procedures for import of toys to ensure compliance with the quality norms of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The move was part of a series of measures taken by the government to control the import of cheap and sub-standard toys from countries like China and promote domestic manufacturing of these items. Similarly, the import duty on toys was increased from 60 per cent to 70 per cent in the budget 2023-24 by the government.

Last month, Toy manufacturers requested the government to provide relief in the Good and Services Tax that is applicable to the sector and early roll-out of the Production Linked Incentive scheme as it gets ready for the next phase of growth offered by the enabling environment created in the last few years.

Source: FE

VOX India to invest ₹100 crore to build its first manufacturing unit

Building materials and home furnishing company VOX India, which is a joint venture between the former promoters of Ashirvad Pipes and VOX Poland, is setting up its first factory in Jigani Industrial Area, Bengaluru, with an initial investment of ₹100 crore, according to a top company executive.

Speaking to businessline, Varun Poddar, CEO of the company, said that the 50-50 joint venture was established in 2018, in which Poddar is the operational partner, looking after sales, distribution network, and manufacturing, while VOX Poland provides the technology and marketing support. VOX is a European company that has been operating in the market since 1992.

For the last four years, the company has been importing products from Europe to understand what works and doesn't work in India. "Since we have a fair understanding now of what sells in India, we will start production at our manufacturing plant in October, and by November, we expect to start commercial production in the same," he said.

The facility, which is spread across 3 acres of land, will see an initial investment of ₹100 crore, enabling capacity generation for both the current and subsequent years. "Following this, we expect to add additional production lines within the same facility. So, we plan to put across a total of ₹200–250 crore over the next three years, which will give us capacity until 2027–28," Poddar added.

Its current product range consists of ceiling, internal, and external wall solutions, facades, decorative wall items, skirtings, acoustic ceilings, and flooring products. Explaining the plan of production, he stated that they will start with the production of the ceiling products and eventually scale it up to flooring products, and the other lines will get those mass-critical volumes.

While the primary goal of setting up the facility in the country is to cater to the domestic market, VOX India also aims to produce for South Asian, African, and European markets, with India serving as an export hub for Europe.

The company presently exports to neighbouring countries, including Indonesia, Vietnam, Dubai, Oman, Kenya, and others and anticipates its FY24 revenue to nearly double to ₹100 crore compared to the FY23 figure of around ₹60 crore. "The aim for FY25 is a revenue of ₹200 crore, with exports accounting for around 10 percent of the total," Poddar noted.

"Within the country, the focus is on expanding presence in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Currently, we are present in over 100 cities, which we expect to expand to 200 cities by March 2024 ensuring a greater emphasis on availability," he said.

Source: HBL

India Plans Manufacturing Incentive Scheme for Toys, Leather, and Footwear Products

In line with the goal of maximizing the utilization of the INR 1.97 trillion (US$23.70 billion) allocation for the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the central government is poised to extend the scheme to encompass the toys, footwear, and leather sectors. Official sources from the Government of India have confirmed that Cabinet notes for both sectors are in an advanced stage of finalization.

The possibility of extending the PLI scheme to cover

the manufacturing of train components is also under consideration. However, this proposal is currently in the discussion stage, as reported by various media outlets. Initially, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had planned an allocation of INR 35 billion (US$421.05 million) for the PLI scheme for toys, while the footwear and leather sectors were slated to receive around INR 26 billion (US$312.78 million).

However, numerous modifications have been introduced during inter-ministerial consultations, and the ultimate decision regarding the allocation will be made by the Prime Minister's Cabinet.

Performance of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in India

The PLI scheme was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in 2020 to attract investments in 14 key sectors, deemed as sunrise and strategic sectors, with the aim of bolstering manufacturing and exports. These sectors encompass automotive and auto components, electronics and IT hardware, telecom, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, textiles and apparel, white goods, drones, and ACC batteries.

Under the PLI scheme, incentives are based on incremental sales and are disbursed over a five-year period. In financial year (FY) 2022-23, incentives disbursed amounted to about INR 29 billion (US$348.87 million), with expectations of reaching INR 130 billion (US$1.56 billion) in the current fiscal year.

Boosting labor-intensive sectors through PLI expansion

The decision to extend the scheme to the toys, footwear, and leather sectors is rooted in their labor-intensive nature and the steps that have already been taken to make them appealing for investment.

A significant step taken in this direction was the introduction of a Quality Control Order (QCO) in 2020 for the toy industry. This mandate, enforced by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the following year, made it compulsory for toys to undergo certification. The primary aim was to curb the inflow of sub-standard toys through imports and simultaneously boost the domestic toy industry. Government estimates suggest that the combined effect of QCOs and increased import duties led to a substantial decrease of approximately 70 percent in toy imports, while exports witnessed a notable increase.

Growth trajectory of India's toy industry

The Indian toy industry, comprising approximately 4,000 units from the MSME sector, constitutes around 0.5 percent of the global market share, with an estimated value of US$1.5 billion. Despite its fragmented nature, the sector displays immense potential. A joint study by FICCI and KPMG anticipates that India's toy industry will witness a doubling of its value from US$1 billion in 2019-20 to US$2 billion by 2024-25. This growth projection outpaces the global average due to several pivotal factors.

The manufacturers primarily reside in key regions, such as the National Capital Region (NCR), Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and various clusters across central Indian states.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry notes a significant decline in toy imports into India, plummeting from US$304 million in 2018-19 to US$36 million in 2021-22. Conversely, exports have witnessed a positive trajectory, escalating from US$109 million in 2018-19 to reach a peak of US$177.04 million in 2021-22, before declining by 13 percent to US$153.88 million in 2022-23.

The toy sector is increasingly expanding its global foot-

print, with manufacturers exploring new markets and increasing exports to regions, such as the Middle East and African countries. In recent developments, India has successfully finalized trade deals with key markets like the UAE and Australia. Indian-manufactured toys now benefit from the advantage of zero-duty market access via the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA).

Growth drivers for the Indian toy industry

India's protectionist approach: To boost domestic production, India has raised basic customs duties on toys from 20 percent to 60 percent in 2020, and then to 70 percent on February 1, 2023. Simultaneously, stringent quality standards for imported toys have been enforced, limiting the availability of imported toys and stimulating demand for domestically produced toys.

Access to raw materials: India is the world's second-largest producer of polyester and related fibers, contributing to an 8 percent global share in plush toy manufacturing, per an industry analyst. Competitive prices of key inputs like plastics, paperboards, and textiles favor local manufacturing.

Location-based incentives: Indian states are offering critical incentives for the toy industry, which can subsidize up to about 30 percent production costs. This is to attract investment and create jobs, but overall has been contributing to an emerging industrial ecosystem.

Cluster-based approach: Over 60 toy clusters have been established by the Indian government. Standout examples include the 400-acre cluster by Aequs in Koppal, Karnataka, and the ongoing development of a 100-acre facility in Uttar Pradesh.

Foreign investment rules: 100 percent foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed under the automatic route for the toy industry.

Policies fueling toy industry growth

Promoting traditional toys: Initiatives like Toy Labs and toy fairs are being established to promote traditional Indian-themed toys, engaging both physical and digital realms for learning, play, and innovation.

Cluster formation and skill enhancement: The government is forming toy producer clusters, upskilling artisans, and enabling their connection with foreign investors to enhance their engagement.

Multi-sector collaboration: Various ministries, including Education, Textiles, I&B, Commerce, and others, are collaborating to enhance the toy industry's growth through diverse avenues, including skill development, technology integration, and cultural representation.

Start-up engagement: The government has urged startups to explore the toy sector and support local manufacturing, reducing reliance on imports. Educational institutions are facilitating innovation in toy technology and design through hackathons.

Quality certification mandate: Mandatory quality certification for toys ensures conformity to standards and fosters the growth of the indigenous toy industry.

Source: India Briefing

Why become a Plexconcil Member?

Established since 1955, the Plastics Export Promotion Council, PLEXCONCIL, is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, Government of India. PLEXCONCIL is a non-profit organization representing exporters from the Indian plastics industry and is engaged in promoting the industry exports.

The Council is focused on achieving excellence in exports by undertaking various activities and initiatives to promote the industry. The Council undertakes activities such as participation at international trade fairs, sponsoring delegations to target markets, inviting foreign business delegations to India, organising buyer-seller meets both in India and the overseas etc.,

The Council also routinely undertakes research and surveys, organizes the Annual Awards to recognize top performing exporters, monitors the development of new technology and shares the same with members, facilitates joint ventures and collaboration with foreign companies and trade associations as well as represents the issues and concerns to the relevant Government bodies.

The Council represents a wide variety of plastics products including – Plastics Raw Materials, Packaging Materials, Films, Consumer Goods, Writing Instruments, Travel ware, Plastic Sheets, Leather Cloth, Vinyl Floor Coverings, Pipes and Fittings, Water Storage Tanks, Custom made plastic Items from a range of plastic materials including Engineered Plastics, Electrical Accessories, FRP/GRP Products, Sanitary Fittings, Tarpaulins, Laminates, Fishing Lines/Fishnets, Cordage/ Ropes/Twines, Laboratory Ware; Eye Ware, Surgical/ Medical Disposables.

Membership Benefits

- Discounted fees at International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions
- Financial benefits to exporters, as available through Government of India
- Disseminating trade enquiries/trade leads
- Instituting Export Awards in recognition of outstanding export performance
- Assistance on export financing with various institutions and banks
- Networking opportunities within the plastics industry

New Members

The Plastics Export Promotion Council added the following companies/firms as new members during July-2023. We would like to welcome them aboard!

Sr. No	Name of the Company	Address	City	Pin	State	Director Name	Email
1	Anron Metalisers Private Limited	Survey No. 213, Plot No. 5, Patel Estate, Por - Ramangamdi	Vadodara	391243	Gujarat	Sureshkumar Babulal Kothari	anronmetalisers2010@gmail.com
2	Avro India Limited	A-7/36-39, South G.T. Road Industrial Area, Electro Steel Casting Compound,	Ghaziabad	201009	Uttar Pradesh	Sahil Aggarwal	accounts@avrofurniture.com
3	Demac Roofing Private Limited	Plot No. D 117 &118, Diamond Road,Kinfra Iit Park, Kanjikode East	Palakkad	678621	Kerala	V D Varghese	info@demacsteel.com
4	Flexiglobe Llc	Shop No 03, F Wing-lake View Residency, Opp. Gurudwara, Dungra, Vapi	Valsad	396195	Gujarat	Sanap Nisha Vinayak	flexiglobellc@gmail.com
5	G M K Overseas	H-13/2, Third Floor Malviya Nagar,	New Delhi	110017	Delhi	Ganesh Prasad Gupta	gmkoverseas@gmail.com
6	Green Leaf Solutions	Chatha Road, Chhajli Sunam,	Sangrur	148030	Punjab	Amit Sharma	greenleafsolutions07@gmail.com
7	Greenedge Eco Solutions Limited	H-602, Caitriona Apartment Ambience Island, Nh-8,	Gurugram	122001	Haryana	Uday Sachdeva	anupsachdeva@icloud.com
8	Indus Hair Extensions	B Block, 12-2-830/1, Meenakshi Trident Towers,Alapati Nagar,	Hyderabad	500032	Telengana	Sunil Reddy Eamani	indushairextensions@gmail.com
9	J P Extrusiontech Private Limited	Plot No. 1701,Gidc Indl Estate, Ankleshwar	Bharuch	393002	Gujarat	Pandurang Kashiram Patkar	exim@jpel.in
10	Kanak Mouldings Private Limited	T-9, Industrial Estate, New Power House Road	Jodhpur	342003	Rajasthan	Manan Dhoot	kanakmould@gmail.com
11	Keny Plastic Industries	Plt No 22,Survey No-168, Dabhel Ind. Co-Op Soc Ltd Dabhel Nani Daman	Daman	396210	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	Siddharth Paras Shah	kenysid@gmail.com
12	Life Color Pigments & Master Batches	S No.57, Shikhar Ind. Complex Bldg No.5/B, Vasai Taluka Co-Op Estate, Sector 1 Gouripada Vasai East	Vasai	401208	Maharashtra	Chetan Jagdishchandra Pandhi	lifecmb@gmail.com
13	Malaika	Tm-2/408, Kvr Centre, Talap,Kannur,Kerala,-Kannur	Kannur	670002	Kerala	Biju Remesh	bijuremesh@gmail.com
14	Manisha Hair Exports	Vill-Benudia,Po Bhagwanpur,Tamluk,	Medinipur	721601	West Bengal	Biswajit Samanta	biswajitsamanta454@yahoo.com
15	Microlit	629, Kursi Road Pakramau	Lucknow	226026	Uttar Pradesh	Fareed Iqbal	fareed@microlit.com
16	Pilot Pipes Company	Survey No1 Paiki4,-Paiki 1,Pipaliya, Rajkot Gondal Nh 8b,Tal, Gondal	Rajkot	360311	Gujarat	Sanjay Vallabhbhai Thesia	pilotpipes@gmail.com
17	Ppap Automotive Limited	Plot No.54, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-Iii	Delhi				

	110020	Delhi	Amitesh Kumar	compliance@ppapco.com			
18	Prerana Marketing	No 76/2, Thigalachowdenahalli Village Dommasandra, Sarjapura Road Bangalore	Bengaluru	562125	Karnataka	Chandrasekhar Reddy Elluru	csrreddy86@yahoo.com
19	Sadguru Industries	Aesbipura Primary School, Plot No-19,20,21,22, Ahmedabad Highway, Jagana,Esbipura, Palanpur	Banas Kantha	385001	Gujarat	Hiteshkumar Ramanbhai Patel	s4sadguru@gmail.com
20	Sanmati Plast India	Plot No-E 17 Sector A 5 And 6, Tronica City, Loni,	Ghaziabad	201102	Uttar Pradesh	Prateek Jain	prateek.jain684@outlook.com
21	Sarvottam Polymers Private Limited	C/3, Kshiteej Co. Op. Hsg. Society, D. P. Road, Near Bhatia High School, Kandivali-(W)	Mumbai	400067	Maharashtra	Anushree Damani	accounts@sarvottampolymers.com
22	Shri Krishna Enterprise	Garibalambag Sahaganj Hooghly	Hooghly	712104	West Bengal	Debmalya Nandy	shrikrishna.enterprise@rediff.com
23	Supple Pack (India) Private Limited	No.325-T &S, Hulagundanahalli Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk,Ramanagara,	Bengaluru	562112	Karnataka	Prayas Srimal	prayas@supplepack.com
24	Vaibhav Polyweave Llp	Survey No-318/1, P1 Rajpar-Thorala Road, At-Thorala Morbi,	Morbi	363641	Gujarat	Kantilal Shivlal Amrutiya	vaibhavpw21@gmail.com
25	Vishva Machinery Private Limited	21, Swastik Industrial Park, Ahmedabad-Indore Highway Near Kuha Village,	Ahmedabad	382433	Gujarat	Udaoy Dilipbhai Shah	account@vishvaexim.com
26	Vrajplast	Plot No 298, 299,300, Gopalcharan Industrial Hub Indore Road, Bakrol Bujrang	Ahmedabad	382430	Gujarat	Paresh Ramesh Shah	admin@vrajplast.com