

China's Sinopec Qilu to shut Zibo SBR plant in early April

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China's Sinopec Qilu is planning to shut its 250,000 tonne/year styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) plant at Zibo in east China in early April for about 40 days, a company source said on Wednesday.

The shutdown is to coincide with its 30-day regular maintenance at its upstream 164,000 tonne/year butadiene (BD) unit at the same site during the same period, the source added.

"This shutdown may directly tighten SBR supply in Shandong market as the capacity of the plant is extremely large," a market player said.

Domestic prices for non-oil grade SBR 1502 increase to yuan (CNY) 17,200-17,900/tonne (\$2,761-2,873/tonne) EXWH (ex-warehouse) on 8 January, up by CNY1,800-1,900/tonne compared with CNY15,400-16,000/tonne on 8 December because of rising feedstock BD prices and better market sentiment, according to Chemease, an ICIS service in China.

The producer also operates a 70,000 tonne/year butadiene rubber (BR) unit at the same site in Zibo and it is running at full capacity, the source added.

Source ICIS News