

Nippon Shokubai's acrylic acid, SAP unit awaits Japan govt nod

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Nippon Shokubai's is waiting for an approval from the Japanese government to restart its acrylic acid and super absorbent polymer (SAP) facilities in Himeji, which were shut down by end September following an explosion, a company spokesman said on Wednesday.

The units ordered shut by the government at the time included its 460,000 tonne/year acrylic acid and 320,000 tonne/year unit for SAP.

"There is still no expected restart date for Nippon Shokubai's acrylic acid and acrylate esters plants at the Himeji site," the company's spokesperson said.

"We are still awaiting approval from the Japanese government," he told ICIS.

Earlier in December, several restrictions at the company's plants at the facility were lifted, according to a separate statement by the company.

A total of 45 facilities that include production facilities, common facilities, warehouses and tanks at the site were given the green light from the authority, as public safety at the site was confirmed, it said.

The automobile catalysts and catalysts for catalytic wet oxidation wastewater treatment units are in operation, the company said.

In addition, the acrylic resins for paints and adhesives produced by its subsidiary Nippon Polymer Industries is in operation, with the facility located beside the Himeji site, the company added.

Source ICIS News

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