

Arkema FM impact on Europe acrylates market remains to be seen

DATE : 2013-10-10

While an acrylate esters consumer said late on Wednesday that its butyl acrylate (butyl-A) demand is fully covered for October, it remains to be seen what impact the force majeure at Arkema will have on the European market.

The consumer said: "We had a lot of carryover from September, which was relatively slow."

French specialty chemicals company Arkema declared force majeure on Acrylic Acid (AA) and Butyl-A from its Carling site on 7 October, because of a "substantial mechanical failure".

"I can confirm that we are in force majeure on butyl-A and AA, and we are managing our way through that at the moment," a source from the company on Wednesday.

As a number of players are returning from the 47th annual European Petrochemical Association (EPCA) meeting in Berlin from 5-9 October, and as the declaration has only been announced this week, it is too early for sources to provide immediate feedback on the news.

In a company letter to its customers seen by ICIS, Arkema said the declaration will remain in place "for an undetermined period".

The mechanical failure is understood to have occurred during the restart process of its production unit after a planned maintenance shutdown, the letter said.

Arkema has the capacity to produce 276,000 tonnes/year of crude AA at its Carling, France, site.

SOURCE *Icis News*