

China's Anqing Petrochemical shuts 130,000 tonnes/year ACN line

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China-based acrylonitrile (ACN) producer, Anqing Petrochemical, has shut its 130,000 tonnes/year ACN line in Anqing on Friday for maintenance, a company source confirmed.

"The fertilizer line was down, so there won't be enough ammonia, one of the raw materials of ACN. There's no overhaul since the new ACN line was powered on, so we decided to shut it for maintenance. The maintenance will last for about 20 days," the source added.

Before Anqing Petrochemical's line maintenance, another major ACN producer, Shanghai Secco Petrochemical, had also shut down its plant for annual maintenance. Subsequently, the average operating rate of China's ACN plants dropped to 65% capacity.

Even though the regional supply is tight, demand from end-users remained lacklustre, according to several traders. Domestic ACN prices on 14 March were stable at yuan (CNY) 14,600-14,700/tonne (\$2,378-2,394/tonne) ex-tank, according to data from Chemease, an ICIS service in China.

SOURCE *Icis News*