Chloroprene rubber, also known as chlorobutadiene rubber, is an organic compound 2-chlorobuta-1,3-diene. Chloroprene rubber is manufactured by polymerizing 2-chloro-1,3-butadiene in the presence of a catalyst, emulsifying agents, modifiers, and protective agents. It exhibits resistance to ozone cracking, heat aging, and chemical attack. As compared to the natural rubber, chloroprene rubber has better chemical, oil, ozone, and heat resistance.

In 2018, the global demand chloroprene rubber market was an estimated 280,000 tonnes. The key driver of the global chloroprene rubber market is the increasing production and sales of automobiles across the globe. It is widely used to manufacture rubber adhesives for tires, engine gaskets and seals, power transmission belts, vibration mounts, shock absorber seals, hose covers, and braking and steering system components. Additionally, chloroprene rubber can be used for a wide range of temperatures between -35°C and +100°C. The total automotive production stood at 95 million in 2018. Furthermore, chloroprene rubber is recyclable, which is an added advantage. Moreover, it is also used in the construction industry, which is another major driver of the global market. Rapid industrialization and urbanization in developing countries such as India, Thailand, Brazil, and Malaysia, is projected to propel the demand for chloroprene rubber during the forecast period in the construction sector. Similarly, the constantly changing fashion trends and growing population coupled with the increasing per capita disposable income of consumers are likely to drive the demand for casual wear and apparel during the forecast period, which in turn, will drive the demand for chloroprene rubber.

Manufacturers are focusing on strategic growth initiatives such as expansions and acquisitions & mergers to strengthen their position and meet the growing demand for the product. For instance, in August 2019, Tosoh Corporation announced that it would invest USD 0.05 billion to increase the production capacity for chloroprene rubber that is sold under its Skyprene brand.

However, the availability of substitutes such as natural rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, and isoprene may hamper the market growth during the review period. Additionally, the implementation of strict regulations by various government bodies has restricted the use of toxic organic chemicals such as vulcanizing agents used in the production of chloroprene rubber, which is expected to hamper the growth of the market.
Regional Analysis

The global chloroprene rubber market, by region, has been segmented into North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and the Middle East & Africa.

Asia-Pacific accounted for the largest market share in 2018 owing to the high demand for chloroprene rubber from the major end-use industries such as automotive, construction, and others. Rapid industrialization and urbanization, coupled with the growing economy have resulted in significant growth of these end-use industries, which is likely to fuel the demand for chloroprene rubber in the coming years. Moreover, the high growth of the textile industry in India is another factor fueling market growth. According to India Brand Equity Foundation, the country’s overall textile exports during 2017–2018 stood at USD 39.2 billion.

The large industrial base in Europe and North America, coupled with the high demand for chloroprene rubber in the automotive, chemical, textile, and construction industries is expected to drive the regional market growth during the review period.

Industrialization in Brazil and Chile has increased the number of construction activities, which is expected to drive the product demand in Latin America during the forecast period. The presence of infrastructural hubs in GCC, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia is likely to propel the growth of the Middle East & Africa market.

Segmentation

The global chloroprene rubber market has been segmented by grade, end-use industry, and region. Based on grade, the global market has been segregated into linear, cross-linked, sulfur modified, and crystallizing resistant.

By application, the global market has been segmented into hoses & tubes, wires & cables, coatings & adhesives, and others.

Based on end-use industry, the global chloroprene rubber market has been categorized as automotive, construction, furniture, chemical, textiles, and others.

Key Players

Some of the prominent players operating in the global chloroprene rubber market are Chongqing Changshou Chemical Co., Ltd. (China), Denka Company Limited (Japan), Denka Company Limited (the Netherlands), MITSUI & CO., LTD. (Japan), Tosoh Corporation (Japan), Shanxi Synthetic Rubber Group Co.Ltd (China), SHOWA DENKO K.K. (Japan), The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company (US), and Dunlop (US).

Intended Audience

- Chloroprene rubber manufacturers
- Traders and distributors of chloroprene rubber
- Research and development institutes
- Potential investors
- Raw material suppliers
- Nationalized laboratories
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