Phthalic Anhydride Market Information: by application (plasticizers, unsaturated polyester resins, alkyd resins, flame retardant, dyes & pigments), end-use industry (automotive, electrical and electronics, construction), and region - Forecast till 2023

Phthalic anhydride is an organic compound known by the molecular formula C₆H₄(CO)₂O. It is white, lustrous crystalline flakes or molten form, and has a characteristic pungent choking odor. It is a commercial form of phthalic acid. It is produced by the oxidation of naphthalene in concentrated sulfuric acid in the presence of mercury sulfate. It is soluble in hot water, benzene, carbon disulfide, and alcohol and is slightly soluble in water and ether.

Phthalic anhydride is extensively used in the production of phthalate plasticizers for making polyvinyl chloride (PVC). The other significant applications of phthalic anhydride include unsaturated polyester resins (UPR), alkyd resins, dyes & pigments, flame retardant, and others (rubber scorch inhibitor, insecticide, herbicide, detergent, saccharin).

High demand for PVC in construction and the automotive industry is expected to fuel the demand for plasticizers and ensure the stable revenue source for the global phthalic anhydride market over the forecast period. The growing application of UPR in reinforced laminates and surface coatings is expected to propel the global phthalic anhydride market to a large extent in the construction, automotive, and electrical & electronics industry. Alkyd resins are widely used in paints & varnishes, particularly solvent-based coatings. Increasing demand for coatings & paints for improving corrosion and thermal resistance in automotive and construction industries are expected to promote the need for alkyd resins, which positively impact the growth of the global phthalic anhydride market over the forecast period.

Additionally, phthalic anhydride is used to make flame retardants, which finds wide applications in electronics products, foams of furniture, and car seats among other. Thus, it is expected to propel high demand from automotive, home furnishing, and electrical & electronics industry. Furthermore, huge demand for dyes & pigments from plastics and paints & coating industry is expected to show rising demand for phthalic anhydride in the coming years.

The short-term exposure to phthalic anhydride causes irritation to the eyes, respiratory tract, and skin. Long-term exposure can cause conjunctivitis, rhinitis, bronchitis, and irritation of the skin and mucous membranes of the respiratory tract, as well as an extreme case of cancer. Toxic nature of phthalate plasticizers, alkyd resin, flame retardants derived from phthalic anhydride coupled with stringent environmental regulations by regulatory body REACH is expected to hamper the global phthalic anhydride market to some extent. Furthermore, an increase in the demand for non-phthalates in the manufacturing of PVC compound is a major restraining factor for the growth of the global phthalic anhydride market.

Global Phthalic Anhydride Market in 2017, by Application
Market Segmentation

The global phthalic anhydride market is segmented based on application, end-use industry, and region.

On the basis of the application, the global phthalic anhydride market is segmented into plasticizers, unsaturated polyester resins, alkyd resins, flame retardant, dyes & pigments, and others.

On the basis of the end-user industry, the global phthalic anhydride market is categorized into construction, automotive, electrical and electronics, and others.

On the basis of the region, the global phthalic anhydride market is segmented into Asia Pacific, North America, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East & Africa.

Regional Analysis

The global phthalic anhydride market is segmented into five regions namely Asia Pacific, North America, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East and Africa. Asia Pacific is expected to be the largest and fastest growing market for phthalic anhydride due to growing construction, automotive, and electrical & electronics industry. Europe is expected to witness a strong demand for the automotive and growing microelectronics industries. North America is expected to show a steady demand for phthalic anhydride from the construction & renovation industry during the forecast period. However, stringent environmental regulations in Europe and North America are expected to hamper the market to some extent due to the toxicity of phthalic anhydride. The Middle East & Africa is expected to witness a moderate demand for phthalic anhydride from the growing construction industry due to government initiatives to flourish tourism industry. Latin America is expected to show slow growth over forecast period. However, the growing construction industry in Brazil and Mexico is expected add fuel to the growth of the phthalic anhydride market in this region.

Key Players

Some of the major players operating in the global phthalic anhydride market are BASF SE (Germany), Hongxin Chemical (China), NAN YA PLASTICS CORPORATION (Taiwan), ExxonMobil Corporation (U.S.), AEKYUNG PETROCHEMICAL Co., Ltd (Republic of Korea), I G Petrochemicals Limited (India), Polyn SPA (Italy), Koppers Inc. (U.S.), Mitsubishi Gas Chemicals Co. Inc. (Japan), and UPC Group (Taiwan).

Intended Audience

- Phthalic anhydride manufacturers
- Traders and distributors of phthalic anhydride
- Research and development institutes
- Potential investors
- Raw material suppliers
- Nationalized laboratory
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