

Corona impact on the water treatment chemicals industry in Europe

Public drinking water and wastewater treatment are considered as critical public infrastructure. Failures in this sector, caused by intentional or unintentional incidents, have an essential impact on human health and potential environmental damage.

Water treatment chemicals, such as inorganic coagulants, play a fundamental role in European water treatment processes. As manufacturers of chemicals used in water treatment, the European Chemical Industry plays a crucial role in ensuring that clean and safe water is delivered to ~ 4 billion people worldwide (see [INCOPA leaflet](#)).

Chemical precipitation and the removal of solid impurities is one of the basic treatment steps to enable a proper and safe disinfection of drinking water for public supply. Also, the chemical treatment of municipal wastewater with the above-mentioned chemistry retains organic impurities from entering our water courses.

To continuously serve the European water industry with these essential chemicals, the water treatment chemicals industry needs to plan for any kind of measures to maintain the production of inorganic coagulant in all its European production facilities.

Impact on raw material supply:

The following list shows examples of key raw materials which are essential for the production of coagulants: sulfuric acids, hydrochloric acid, aluminum hydroxide, iron ore.

An uninterrupted supply with these key raw materials requires unrestricted production and transportation to our European manufacturing sites.

Impact on manufacturing sites:

Many of the relevant chemicals are liquid products and the storage capacity in general is limited. In order to enable a continuous supply of coagulants all required measures for an uninterrupted production needs to be implemented.

To avoid a lack of active labor force a prioritized conduction of Corona-testing for the manufacturing personnel and a guaranteed provision with protective equipment and hygienic consumables (such as hand disinfection liquids etc.).

Impact on final product supply:

Most of the water treatment chemicals are transported by trucks. To secure a smooth supply to drinking water or wastewater facilities an unlimited transportation permission, even across European borders, is required.

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Summary and appeal:

With the spread of the coronavirus, and the need for those who test positive to stay hydrated, it is more important than ever for our industry to provide this critical service without interruption.

- To secure a smooth supply to drinking water or wastewater facilities an unlimited transportation permission, even across European borders, is required. An uninterrupted supply with these key raw materials requires unrestricted production and transportation to our European manufacturing sites.
- In many areas, it is difficult to get tested, even if the individual has been exposed to the coronavirus or lives in a high-risk area. Most guidance recommends testing only for those who are experiencing symptoms. We are requesting health care officials make it a priority to have our plant managers and essential personnel tested for the virus. We are confident this would ensure our ability to provide continuous, uninterrupted supply of the chemicals that allow clean, safe water during this worldwide health crisis.

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