



ESAPA

European Soda Ash Producers Association



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Mission

The European Soda Ash Producers Association (ESAPA) is the CEFIC sector group representing soda ash producers from the EU and countries whose national chemical organisations are affiliated to CEFIC. Through ESAPA its members bring together information and resources so that collectively and in the most effective way they can address issues which impact soda ash and sodium bicarbonate and their down stream uses across Europe under strict competition rules.

The Association

ESAPA Members

Brunner Mond

CIECH

Novacarb

SC GHCL Upsom

Soda Sanayii

Sodawerk Stassfurt

Solvay

General Assembly

President: John Kerrigan

Technical Committee

Chairman: Mac Thorpe

Secretariat

CEFIC: Pieter van der Hoeven
<mailto:pvd@cefic.be>

Activities

Under the CEFIC structure and governance ESAPA engages in:

- Providing governments and European institutions with a source of expertise on issues pertaining to the soda ash industry.
- Collecting and sharing statistical data for the soda ash industry.
- Promoting and encouraging the implementation of best practice amongst its members in the fields of technology, safety, health, environment, Responsible Care and Sustainable Development.
- Promoting the image of the European soda ash industry to local, national and European authorities.
- Providing relevant information and proposals developed through the collaboration of its members in the fields of safety, environment, toxicology, transport, energy and trade.
- Monitoring and influencing legislation and its impact on soda ash manufacture and its down stream use.

Production

Sodium carbonate (soda ash) is a white alkaline powder soluble in water which is produced in two grades - light and dense. Light soda ash is a fine powder whereas dense soda ash, with twice the bulk density is a granular product.

Soda ash is manufactured using the locally-available natural raw materials of salt, in the form of brine, and limestone.

The members of ESAPA operate 18 soda ash plants across 12 European countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom. The combined capacity represents over 10 million t/year and one quarter of global production.

Soda ash does not present any major harm or hazard to human activities although as with all chemicals ESAPA and its members promote the concepts of Responsible Care and confidence in chemicals.

Applications - Soda Ash

Soda ash is used in a wide variety of applications and industries. Amongst many others the major uses of soda ash are in:

- Glass
 - soda ash is used in the manufacture of flat and container glass. Acting as a fluxing agent, it allows the melting temperature of the batch to be lowered and therefore reduces energy consumption.
- Detergents
 - soda ash is used in a large number of prepared domestic products: washing powders, soaps and scouring powders where it acts primarily as a builder or water softener.
- Chemicals
 - soda ash is a primary raw material in the production of sodium based chemicals e.g.. sodium bicarbonate, sodium silicate, sodium phosphate and sodium percarbonate.

Applications – Sodium Bicarbonate

Sodium Bicarbonate is also used in a wide variety of applications and industries. Some typical major uses are in:

- Food and Pharmaceuticals
 - Sodium bicarbonate is extensively used in human food products and domestic uses : baking soda, effervescent drinks, toothpaste, fruit cleaning, personal hygiene, etc. and in pharmaceutical applications : effervescent tablets, haemodialysis.
- Animal Feed Products
 - - to balance diets to compensate for seasonal variations and meet specific biological and rearing needs.
 -
- Environmental Sector
 - Sodium bicarbonate is used in water treatment, fire fighting agents and in the growing market for flue gas treatment

Economic Impact

Soda ash is a fundamental building block and raw material to the glass, detergent and chemical industries and as such is of strategic importance in the European and Global manufacturing framework.

The sales of soda ash generated by the members of ESAPA are in excess of €1bn. Whilst these sales are predominantly made in Europe growing exports into markets such as the Middle East, South America and Asia now account for 15% of European production.

The soda ash industry across Europe employs more than 20,000 people both directly and indirectly in its operations and is often the major employer in the area around its manufacturing sites.

The industry is highly responsible and engages in a series of programmes aimed at minimising the environmental impact of the production of soda ash, establishing best practice and driving technological innovation.

Recent Achievements

One of the challenges for ESAPA has been to make sure that the objectives of new legislation can be achieved against a clear understanding of their impact on the soda ash industry enabling it to achieve compliance in a cost effective and sustainable way. In order to achieve these objectives ESAPA has interfaced and worked with other related industry groups and authorities to foster common interests.

Recently ESAPA has been working on:

- The EC BREF document for Large volume Inorganic chemicals of which the soda ash chapter is one of the “corner stones”.
- European Pollutant Emissions Register (EPER) and its world wide counterpart PRTR.
- EU ETS and the contribution of soda ash and its manufacture in the climate change debate.
- REACH the new European Regulation for the **R**egistration, **E**valuation, and **A**uthorisation of **C**hemicals

Useful Links

Member websites

Brunner Mond	http://www.brunnermond.com
CIECH	http://www.ciech.com
Novacarb	http://www.novacap.eu
SC GHCL Upsom	http://www.ghcl.co.in
Sodawerk Stassfurt	http://www.sodawerk.de
Soda Sanayii	http://www.sodakrom.com.tr
Solvay	http://www.solvay.com
CEFIC	http://www.cefic.org

Related soda ash associations

Alkali Manufacturers ' Association of India (AMAI)	http://www.amaionline.org
China Soda Industry Association (CSIA)	http://www.chinasoda.com.cn
Japan Soda Industry Association (JSIA)	http://www.jsia.gr.jp
American Chemistry Council - US Soda Ash Manufacturers Panel	http://www.americanchemistry.com