

Press release

For immediate release

Antimony Industry Reacts to China's New Export Restrictions

The International Antimony Association (i2a) takes note of China's recent decision to impose new export restrictions on a range of antimony substances, including antimony ore, metal, and oxides. These restrictions are slated to take effect on 15 September 2024 and are expected to have significant implications for the global antimony supply chain.

While the full details of China's decision have yet to be disclosed, i2a is closely monitoring all aspects of the announcement, as it anticipates potential disruptions in Europe and the US for users of antimony metal and the different antimony substances. "Many industrial European users have diversified their sourcing of antimony products to include suppliers outside of China in recent years", said Hans Vercammen, President of i2a and Director at Campine. "So the direct impact on i2a members is expected to be limited at first" Vercammen added.

Data from Eurostat shows a significant decrease in Chinese antimony metal imports into the European Union from 18% in 2023 to just 6% in the first half of 2024. Similarly, market shares of Chinese antimony oxide suppliers in the US have dropped from 72% in 2023 to 63% in the first half of 2024. Both regions are however still considerably exposed to the Chinese export restrictions.

These restrictions come at a time when the antimony market is already constrained by tight supply, which has driven a near doubling of antimony metal prices over the past three months. Even minor disruptions in the supply chain can have significant effects on antimony price and availability. Raymond Devaux, Vice-President of i2a and CEO of AMG Antimony, emphasized the importance of a secure 'local' supply chain, particularly for substances such as antimony, which the European Union has classified as a critical material in the Critical Raw Materials Act. "This decision underscores the urgent need for European and even national strategies to ensure the future availability and stable supply chain of antimony for its domestic industry," said Devaux.

Antimony plays a crucial role in the production of substances used in flame retardants, batteries, photovoltaic panels, brake-pads for cars, PET polymers, and various specialized military applications. i2a will continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance to its members as more details will become available and the global antimony market adjusts to these new developments.

About i2a

The International Antimony Association or i2a is the Brussels-based organization representing the producers, importers and users of multiple Antimony substances. i2a's aim is the sustainable and responsible production, use and recycling of Antimony.