Asia Pacific Lignin Market Forecast to 2028 – COVID-19 Impact and Regional Analysis – by Type (Lignosulfonates, Kraft Lignin, High Purity Lignin, and Others), Form (Solid and Liquid), and Application (Concrete Additives, Plastics and Polymers, Bitumen, Water Treatment, Dyes and Pigments, Activated Carbon, Carbon Fiber, and Others)

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Abstracts

The Asia Pacific lignin market was valued at US$ 1,51,820.36 thousand in 2022 and is expected to reach US$ 2,14,784.27 thousand by 2028; it is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 6.0% from 2022 to 2028

Growing Demand of Lignin from Several End-Use Industries

Lignin is widely used in many industrial applications owing to its aromatic structure, relatively high energy content, and sustainability. Hence, the demand for lignin and its use is increasing across various end-use industries such as construction, paper & pulp, agriculture, animal feed, water treatment, and biofuel. Lignin is utilized in the building materials and construction industry as a set retardant, water-reducing admixture, and grinding agent in cement production. Lignin is used as a cement replacement material. It strengthens concrete by increasing its compressive strength; thus, its usage decreases carbon dioxide emissions during cement production and reduces the risk of depletion of natural material used for concrete production. A major advantage of using lignin is making the concrete process sustainable. Thus, the increasing use of lignin in concrete admixtures is driving the demand for lignin. Less than 2% of lignin is used as a dispersant, surfactant, and wood adhesive, while the rest is consumed as a direct combustion fuel to supply internal energy in biomass processes. In addition, lignin is the

largest natural source of aromatics, which can potentially replace petroleum-based chemicals. Consumers are increasingly shifting toward eco-friendly products. Hence, the demand for bio-based, renewable, and circular solutions is increasing. For instance, Lineo, a high-purity kraft lignin material by Stora Enso Oyj, can replace fossil-based glue in plywood. In February 2023, Paged, a Polish plywood manufacturer, collaborated with Stora Enso Oyj to cater to customers' demands for sustainable and bio-based plywood. This partnership allowed Paged to reduce carbon emissions through its products.

Furthermore, increasing demand for sustainable products has prompted several manufacturers to produce bio-based products such as bio-based plastics, lignin-based resins, lignin-based binders, lignin-based composites, bio-asphalt, biofuel, and bio-coatings, among others. In 2019, Latvijas Finieris developed RIGA ECOlogical in collaboration with Stora Enso Oyj. RIGA ECOlogical is eco-friendly lignin gluing technology aimed at replacing fossil-based phenol utilized in plywood production. In addition, lignin is used as an animal feed additive and offers multiple functionalities for improved productivity in the animal nutrition & health industry. Purified Alcell lignin can exhibit prebiotic effects in chickens, favoring the growth of good bacteria and improving the morphological structures of the intestines, as measured by increased villi height and goblet cell number. These findings suggest that purified lignin can offer health benefits in monogastric animals and serve as a potential natural feed additive. Hence, animal feed manufacturers increasingly use lignin as a natural feed additive. Therefore, the growing demand of lignin from several end-use industries drives the Asia Pacific lignin market growth.

Asia Pacific Lignin Market Overview

Lignin is extracted from the wastewater of pulp and paper plants. Thus, the proliferation of -the paper and pulp industry contribute to a rise in lignin production. Lignin has a wide range of applications in industries such as automotive, construction, coatings, plastics and polymers, activated carbon, and pharmaceuticals. Moreover, lignosulfonate is extensively used to produce concrete, drywall, and concrete-based additives. In wastewater treatment processes, lignin-based hydrogels are used as pollutant adsorbents to eliminate metal cations and dyes.

According to a report published by the International Energy Agency in 2022, China was the world's largest paper producer in 2020. In 2021, the country announced its plans to prioritize building a circular economy under its 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025), by attaining the capability of utilizing 66.1 million tons of wastepaper by 2025. Moreover, the governments of China, Thailand, the Philippines, and India have introduced programs and taken initiatives to support wastewater treatment projects and a circular economy via statutory or legislative provisions.

Asia Pacific Lignin Market Revenue and Forecast to 2028 (US$ Thousand)

Asia Pacific Lignin Market Segmentation

The Asia Pacific lignin market is segmented based on type, form, application, and country. Based on type, the Asia Pacific lignin market is segmented into lignosulfonates, kraft lignin, high purity lignin, and others. The lignosulfonates segment held the largest Asia Pacific lignin market share in 2022.

Based on form, the Asia Pacific lignin market is bifurcated into solid and liquid. The solid segment held a larger market share in 2022.

Based on application, the Asia Pacific lignin market is segmented into concrete additives, plastics and polymers, bitumen, water treatment, dyes and pigments, activated carbon, carbon fiber, and others. The concrete additives segment held the largest market share in 2022.

Based on country, the Asia Pacific lignin market is segmented into Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and the Rest of Asia Pacific. China dominated the Asia Pacific lignin market share in 2022.

Nippon Paper Industries Co Ltd; Borregaard ASA; Burgo Group SpA; Domsjo Fabriker AB; Sappi Ltd; Stora Enso Oyj; Suzano SA; The Dallas Group of America Inc; and Tokyo Chemical Industry Co Ltd are the leading companies operating in the Asia Pacific lignin market.

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Contents

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10. ASIA PACIFIC LIGNIN MARKET – BY COUNTRY ANALYSIS

11. INDUSTRY LANDSCAPE

12. COMPANY PROFILES

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13. APPENDIX

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List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

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List Of Figures

LIST OF FIGURES

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