China Phenol Market Report, 2008

Demand for phenol is rapidly growing in China over the past 20 years. In 1990, China's apparent demand for phenol was only 115,000 tons, but in 2002, the figure reached 473,000 tons, an increase of more than three times within 12 years. During 1990-2002, the average annual growth rate of apparent demand for phenol in China was 12%, while the average annual growth rate of China's GDP was only 9.7% in the same period.

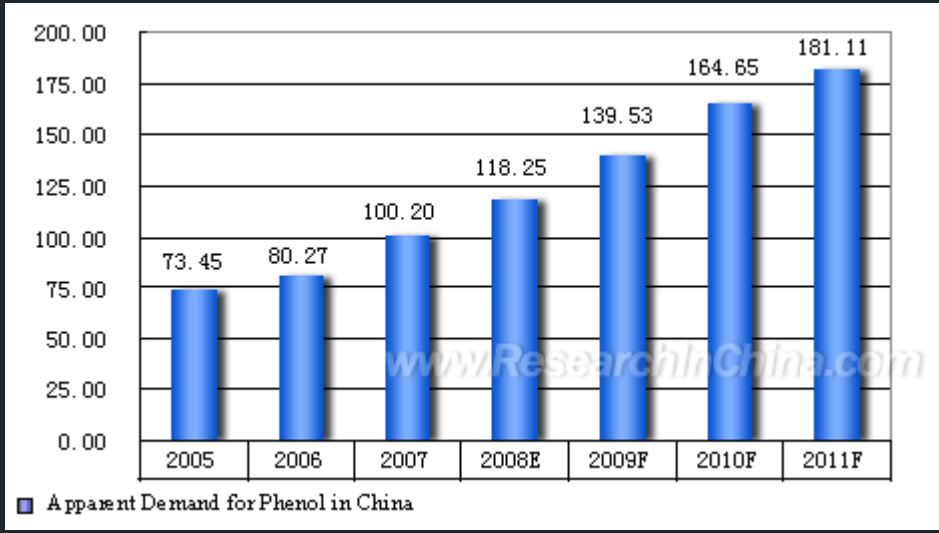
In the past five years, as China chemical industry was in the period of rapid growth, caused the demand for phenol grew even faster. The apparent demand for phenol in 2007 reached 1.2 million tons, the annual growth rate was 16.2% during 2002-2007. Import volume and import value both achieved a rapid growth. In 2000, import volume of phenol was 96,900 tons with an imports value of 64 million U.S. dollars.

In 2007, import volume increased to 456,900 tons, with an average annual growth rate of 24.8% during 2000-2007, as well as the import value increased to 682 million U.S. dollars, with an average annual growth rate of 40% during the same period, and the average import price was 1493 U.S. dollars / ton during 2000-2007.

With regard to supply, production capacity of phenol in China steadily rises. In 2000, phenol output was only 223,000 tons but in 2007, the figure increased to 545,000 tons, with an average annual growth rate of 13.6% during 2000-2007.

However, due to the global financial crisis, China demand for phenol is getting less in 2008.

Apparent Demand for Phenol in China, 2005-2011
(Unit: 10,000 tons)



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