

**INAUGURAL
EDITION**

QUALITY

Chronicle

Oct - Dec 2021

Year: 1st

Issue: 1st

by APCOTEX INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Construction Segment



Taloja Plant



Gloves Segment



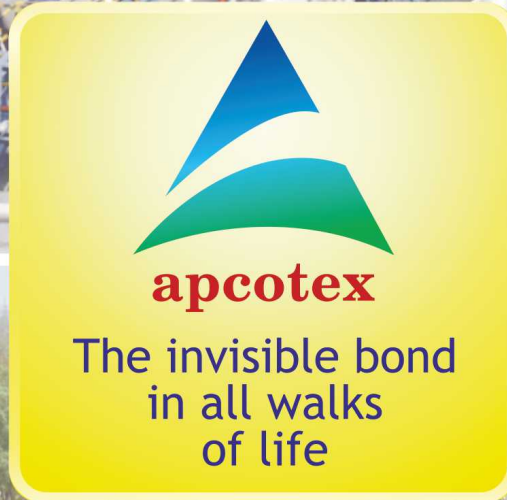
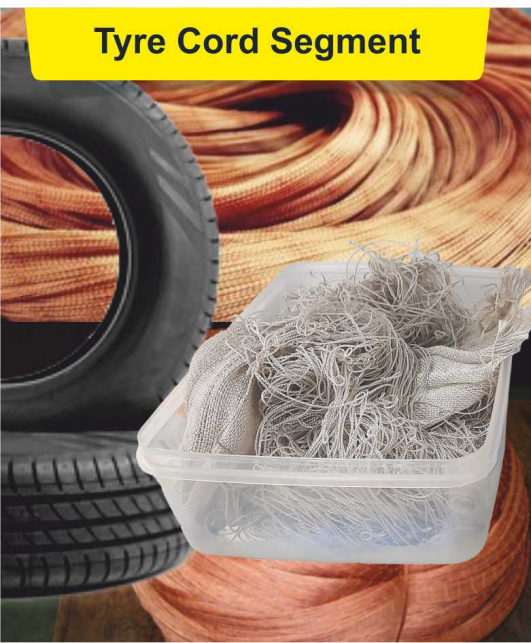
NBR & HSR Segment



Paper Segment



Tyre Cord Segment



Valia Plant



Carpet & Rubber Segment





A Journey: towards excellence in customer services

With implementations of state-of-the-art manufacturing practices and stringent quality standards; Apcotex Journey to be continued to meet newer heights and horizons in customer services...

Entered into Nitrile Latex business for Gloves application. Plan to enhance Nitrile Latex capacity to 60,000MT p.a. by 2022. This capacity will be further expanded to 90,000MT p.a. in the next phase.

2020

Taloja latex plant capacity increased from 55000 MT to 65000 MT p.a. and Valia Rubber plant capacity enhanced from 16000 MT to 21000 MT p.a.

2021

2016

Completed acquisition of Omnova Solution's, Indian business at Valia, Gujarat having per annum 16,000 MT production capacity of Nitrile Rubber & HSR.

2005

Name changed to **Apcotex Industries Limited.**

Installed capacity of saleable latex increased at Taloja from 40,000 MT to 55,000 MT p.a. (wet).

2013

1998

Started HSR - High Styrene Rubber production with 10,000 MT per annum (dry) capacity.

1980

Started as a division of Asian Paints. Pioneered the manufacturing of Vinyl Pyridine latex and Carboxylated Styrene-Butadiene latex at Taloja, Maharashtra in India.

1991

Constituted as a Public Limited Company; listed on stock exchanges as Apcotex Lattices Limited.





Quality Chronicle

Quarterly In-house magazine
by Apcotex Industries Limited

on Performance; Achievements & Aptitude
in Quality; Products and Customer Services

- Inaugural Edition: Oct-Dec 2021 •

- Editor •

Dr. S. V. Govindaraju

- Sub-Editor •

Dr. Ajay Kumar Pandey

- Editorial Committee •

Dr. Sreenath P. R. (R&D-Taloja)

Shri. Jignesh Goswami (QA-Valia)

Shri. Raghunath Sawant (HR-Taloja)

- Willingly, readers can send their reviews about the magazine and the contents; veracious comments will be published in upcoming issues.
- For any communication, E-mail: apcotexqualitychronicle@gmail.com
- Editorial committee is not supposedly agree to the contents of the articles published herewith.
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Quality Statement

Quality of its products to Apcotex is like soul to a living being.

Quality affords and sustains growth, profit and market share.

We shall create products of superior quality; offering better value for money to our customers.

We shall be known by the quality of our products and satisfaction we provide to our customers.

- Atul Choksey
Chairman- Apcotex Industries Ltd.



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Editorial



Dear Readers,

At outset I express my deep feelings of happiness to introduce our quarterly quality magazine, named 'Quality Chronicle' that echoes our dedicated and focussed quality pursuits on a regular basis.

We wish to leverage this information medium to instil confidence in the hearts of our customers about the continual enrichment of quality environment at Apcotex Industries Limited, which defined the quality of products as the soul to a living being.

Introduction of this quality magazine is a part of International Quality Week celebration that aims at the concept "Sustainability: Improving our products, people and planet". We aimed for a great participation from our company employees, customers and vendors. As rightly said by the world leaders, "Quality is never an accident, but is always a resultant effect of dedicated efforts with an intent". Apcotex Industries Limited constantly endeavors to adopt various initiatives that boost quality of products and lives. "Good Manufacturing Practice"(GMP) is also one of such recent initiatives by our company.

We aim not only for the quality of products but also for people and the environment. Proof is our endeavours to get "GreenCo" certification by Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)

to demonstrate our commitment to the environment.

The main purpose behind this quality week celebration and the introduction of this quality magazine is to raise the level of quality awareness in the company and to recognize the efforts and contributions of quality professionals.

Quality is the pursuit of excellence, striving to be the best we can and getting ahead of our competitors. It is meeting the needs and expectations of all stakeholders – our customers, our suppliers, our staff and the community at large.

As Aristotle said, "Excellence is a habit." I would say furthermore that excellence is defined through the concept of quality, the feeling that one gets after completing an undeniably awe-inspiring work. Quality isn't just about profits and loss or beating out a competitor. It's about safety, delivering on a promise and meeting the very basics of customer expectations.

It is our promise to the customers that we the Apcotex industries limited will continue to consistently deliver world-beating products which makes our competitors admire us, and at the same time, our own people believe that their organization is among the best places to work.

The Sayings of Our Customers... Our Pride!

A supportive path in improvising ourselves!



I have seen Apcotex since 2005; changing their internals slowly with adopting TPM practices which changed their face. During this time they showed willingness to understand the demands of customers on their products and changed those products suitably winning the confidence of customers. Obviously we could learn some good practices from them as were closely working.

I believe that if we imprint in our mind that our salary is paid by satisfied customers, we change our attitude permanently to make our customers happy. In this path Innovation and Discipline of implementing innovation, being two sides of same coin are important. I will insist Apcotex to be more innovative for achieving sustainable growth.

So, Best of Luck for their future endeavors.

Vijay Patharkar
Head R&D - BGPPL, Bhigwan

Quality Statement



Aristotle said “Quality is not an act. It is a habit”.

At Apcotex, we continually strive to improve the quality of our products, services, people, processes and everything that touches us in our daily work life.

High quality should be part of a culture of the organization and we must all strive to keep moving to the next level.

The Quality Chronicle magazine is one step in the right direction and I am extremely happy to see its first publication coming together. All the best to the entire Apcotex team!

- Abhiraj Choksey
MD - Apcotex Industries Limited





For organization and family; we should deliver our 100 %.

--- Ajay Kharkar, AVP-Product Development, Taloja



Mr. Ajay Kharkar started his career as a Chemist (Production & QC) from 18th January 1983 with Apcotex when it was a division of Asian Paints India Limited. Initially worked in shifts as a reliever in Production and QC departments. When he joined Apcotex, the workforce was about 25-30. He has also done Diploma from Plastic and Rubber Institute in 1989. He got his first promotion as a Tech. Supervisor in the year 1989-90. His major focus area in the beginning was QC and Production. Later he was involved in R&D and Product Development. He played an important role in developing and standardizing HSR and setting up HSR plant. He has also worked in technical service department. He handled and successfully resolved many issues related to rubber segment. He successfully led teams to implement TPM, IMS RC etc. in Apcotex. He has been one of the instrumental member in making Apcotex a truly world-class company. He is married to Mrs. Anjali in the year 1991. They have one daughter; Anushree. She has done B.Tech in Bio-Technology and post-graduation in Perfumery from ISIPCA France.



In a formal interview with Dr. Ajay Kumar Pandey; at Mr. Kharkar's residence, his inner feelings on the quality journey of Apcotex can be defined as under

Dr. AKP: In 'Apcotex' we are always striving to adhere, to the quality of our products and services... How would you describe the same?

Ajay Kharkar: At Apcotex we clearly define our purpose or mission, and activate values to support them, which are well positioned for long-term success in a rapidly changing business climate. These purpose and mission guide us very clearly how we can plan to achieve our objectives.

Continual improvement in our products, proactive & reactive approach on our processes, and customer feedbacks are always helps us to adhere to the quality of our product and services.

Dr. AKP: What manufacturing technologies; strategies would you like to mention, are very much useful to maintain the quality in our products?

Ajay Kharkar: As a manufacturer, we need to be innovative in various ways; these innovations may include the utilization of new business models, the development of new processes and services, and the enhancement of existing products too. So I can say that Apcotex is always ready to adopt new technologies that support and drive innovation. These strategies of Apcotex have always been very much useful in maintaining the quality and customer base for our product.

Dr. AKP: 'Continual Improvisation in quality' and 'Good Relationship with Customers' are always 'Worth for Growth', how do you define them?

Ajay Kharkar: Customers are the core of our business and should always be our top priority. Happy customers

can help you build credibility and brings in more business and, that's why we should focus on keeping our customers happy and satisfied with great products and excellent service.

Today's consumers do not just buy products or services - more and more, their purchase decisions revolve around buying into an idea and an experience. "Hence continual improvement in quality and good relationships are always in favour of growth in our customer-base".

Dr. AKP: What strategies would you define are most likely to be used, to be in sturdier and user-friendly relationship with our customers?

Ajay Kharkar: As per my point of view, if you want your customers to like you, you need to deliver the best customer experience, at all times. We make mainly two strategies that help us to improve our customer relationship.

1. Seek Customer Feedback: To provide excellent customer service, first we need to understand their needs, experiences and pain points. Connecting with the customers to gather their feedback is also an important benefit - it makes them feel that you value them, and you are willing to resolve their issues. This can help to establish trust, and may even prevent them from sharing their concerns or negative comments in market.

2. Strengthen our Customer Service Team: Improving our customer service begins with building a strong customer service team. Here's how we can strengthen our service performance.

Dr. AKP: Nowadays, it has become more and more difficult for everyone to balance the 'Professional Life' and the 'Personal Life'. In our organization you have been gone through the phases right from the grass-root level employee up to the decision making person in management cadre, how did you maintain the said balance?

Ajay Kharkar: As we get older, our professional and personal responsibilities both grow. Maintaining strong work and family life balance is critical to keeping ourselves happy and productive. If there are more people who rely on us — either in the office or at home — it is of more essential that we keep both spheres balanced. I adopted some strategies to maintain the balance like I always **Stay on top of our schedule for Organisation as well as Family.** Figuring out your own schedule is half the battle won. Striking the right balance means balancing your energy, as well as your time.



Strength behind ability and persistence!

Dr. AKP: What quality improvements and approaches should we apply to be 'World Class' in domestic market as well as in global market?

Ajay Kharkar: Following improvement and approaches we should apply...

1. Consistency in quality.
2. Innovativeness.
3. Be Cost competitive.
4. Timely resolution of Customer's feedback.

Dr. AKP: Every company has a strategy to improve the quality of its products and services, and try to apply various methods in organization such as TPM, 5S, Six Sigma and so on... Which one is your favorite and time-tested?

Ajay Kharkar: We cannot say which one is the best or favorite but we need to implement any of the above model in true spirit, which will certainly give edge in results.



Mentor & power source for determinations!

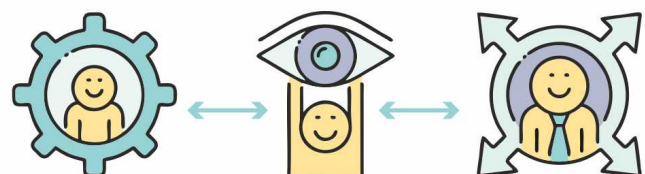
Dr. AKP: Success can be defined in a variety of ways... How would you define success for 'Apcotex'?

Ajay Kharkar: For Apcotex - success is running a profitable firm that conducts business with integrity, in safe and environment friendly manner, makes meaningful contributions to the society and nurtures high-quality and balanced lives for its employees.

Dr. AKP: A final message for all our readers...

Ajay Kharkar: For your Organization and Family, please provide your 100% efforts.

Interview by: **Dr. Ajay Kumar Pandey**
Head-QA & Sub-Editor





Caring, Sharing and Growing is the Nucleus of Apcotex!

--- Kaushik Patel, VP-Works, Valia



Mr. Kaushik Patel (Vice President - Works), is associated with Apcotex Valia Plant since January 1990; during that time the company name was M/s Gujarat Apar Private Limited. Initially he had worked with project team at Mumbai. He had been sent to M/s Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Company, USA (the technology supplier) for the in-plant training as a production specialist in 1991. Initially, his major role was to establish and stabilize the process plant for smooth production & set up of specification for quality product. Later on he handled all the projects of Valia site like continuous polymerization from batch plant, capacity enhancement of NBR, relocation of HSR plant, Powder NBR Project, NVC capacity enhancement project etc. He worked with the MNC's like Eliokem, France; Omnova, USA in different capacities. He handled and successfully resolved many issues related to process plant and operations. He magnificently commanded the teams to implement TPM, IMS, RC etc. in Apcotex. He has been one of the instrumental member in making Apcotex a truly world-class company.



He is married to Mrs. Smita in the year 1987. They have two sons; Sahil & Pratik . Sahil has completed bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management (BHTM) & running his own business. He married with Vishwal. She is working with TCS. Pratik has done diploma in automobile engineering and looking further for more & more greener pastures for his career.

In a formal but friendly-manner talk with our editorial committee member and Sr. Manager-QA from Valia Plant Mr. Jignesh Goswami; at his residence Mr. Kaushik Patel a.k.a. Kaushikbhai's inner feelings on the qualitative career journey of his own in Apcotex are as under...

Jignesh: Quality is so important for an organization. How would you describe the same for this organization?

Kaushikbhai: Quality" is very important for every business. At Apcotex, a management system describes the set of procedures an organization needs to follow in order to meet its objectives. The first principle "customer focus" is very important. Everyone will agree that an organization depends on its customers, and that the organization cannot exist unless there are customers who buy its products and services. For this reason, the organization must understand the requirements of its customers and should focus to exceed those expectations and understand their requirements even further. In short... 'Customers are our motto'.

Jignesh: What manufacturing technologies; strategies would you like to mention, are very much useful to maintain the quality in our products?

Kaushikbhai: It is important to adopt various process-improvement techniques to identify inefficiencies and preventable errors than to influence changes associated with atomization and system. Each of these techniques involves assessing performance and quality of product by identifying the finding to inform change. This can be further improved by investing in fixtures and poka-yoke

(mistake-proofing) to reduce quality issues. Apcotex always drive for technical experts for support and drive innovation of continual improvement. Technological advancements can allow us to create higher quality goods faster than before, with less expense and help us to realize and implement more efficient operations to become more and more competitive.

Jignesh: How you describe the role of continual improvement steps in quality strategies by Apcotex?

Kaushikbhai: Apcotex always studies the intermittent valuations and assessments against recognized criteria of excellence to detect areas for prospective improvement to ensure that continual improvement principles are being followed as part of quality management strategies within the organization. Recognize improvements, and acknowledge these improvements so that all levels of employees within the organization are able to see the results that come from continual improvement strategies, and to motivate them for further improvements over the long-term.

Jignesh: How you feel regarding the Total Quality Management in Apcotex?

Kaushikbhai: TQM always focus on customer satisfaction. Competitive advantage denotes a firm's ability to achieve market superiority over its

competitors. In the long run, a sustainable competitive advantage provides above-average performance. These characteristics relate to quality, quality can be an important means of gaining competitive advantage in Global businesses.

Jignesh: Nowadays, it has become more and more difficult for everyone to balance the 'Professional Life' and the 'Personal Life'. In our organization you have voyaged through the phases right from the grass-root level employee up to the decision making authority in management cadre... How did you maintain the said balance?

Kaushikbhai: Yes! It's true that, it has become almost impossible to maintain a proper balance between the personal and the professional life of a professionally engrossed individual. It is important for every person to keep in his mind that you are working to live not living for work. Therefore, for staying happy and satisfactory it is important to well-maintain the balance between both professional and personal life. Both the things are completely different from each other and if they will clash at some point in your life, the situation can become more tough and unidentified. For maintaining the balance between the work and the personal life, it is of further important for people especially for the families also; which are finding difficulties, to confront this



A few Quality-moments with enthusiastic partner!

Jignesh: Every company has a strategy to improve the quality of its products and services, and try to apply various methods in organization such as TPM, 5S, Six Sigma and so on... Which one is your favorite and time-tested?

Kaushikbhai: Every tool and methodology has unique features that helps to improvise every business. As combination of business excellence and operational excellence, every company has methodologies that helps to get substantial benefits and improvement in its overall performance.

Jignesh: Success can be defined in a variety of ways... How would you define success for your organization?

Kaushikbhai: I believe that organization's success can be achieved by commitment to Recurrent Improvements in Quality and Processes, Continuous Learning and Development, Creativity and Innovation, Customer Orientation, Revealing the appropriate Vision, Flexibility and Adaptability to Change, Leadership & Initiative, along with Teamwork.

Jignesh: A final message for all our readers...

Kaushikbhai: To all team members I would just say that, caring, sharing and growing is the nucleus of Apcotex! We all should contribute our best to grow further...



Contented moments with cheerful supporters!

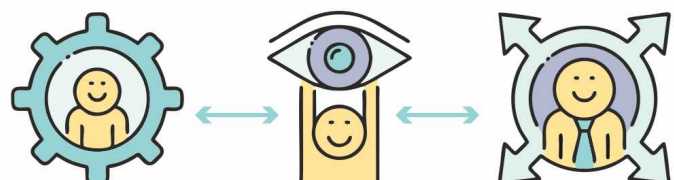
entanglement with smarter and smoother solutions by discussing them with their near and dear ones.

Jignesh: What is cost of quality? How can we improve it in Apcotex?

Kaushikbhai: Cost of quality is a methodology that allows an organization to determine the extent to which its resources are used for activities that prevent poor quality; that appraise the quality of the organization's products or services, and that result from internal and external failures. This allows an organization to determine the potential savings to be gained by implementing process improvement initiatives.



— Interview by: **Jignesh Goswami**
Sr. Manager - QA; Apcotex - Valia Facility
and Member Editorial Committee 'Quality Chronicle'



Product Safety

Chemicals are part of our daily life. All living and inanimate matter is made up of chemicals and virtually every manufactured product involves the use of chemicals. Many chemicals can, when properly used, significantly contribute to the improvement of our quality of life, health and well-being. But other chemicals are highly hazardous and can negatively affect our health and environment when improperly managed.



A safe product is one that provides either no risk or a minimum acceptable level of risk, taking into account the normal or reasonably foreseeable use of the product and the need to maintain a high level of protection for consumers.

Products must be safe and comply when they are available for supply, or 'placed on the market'.

As stated above if you are involved in the supply of goods to consumers you are responsible for the safety of the goods you supply. The level of responsibility depends on whether you are involved in the actual production of the goods, where you are affecting the safety properties of the products ('producers') or merely involved with the supply ('distributors').

Product Safety is achieved by undertaking all activities involving chemicals in such a way as to ensure the safety of human health and the environment. It covers all chemicals, natural and manufactured, and the full range of exposure situations from the natural presence of chemicals in the environment to their extraction or synthesis, industrial production, transport use and disposal.



Product safety has many scientific and technical components. Among these are toxicology, ecotoxicology and the process of chemical risk assessment which requires a detailed knowledge of exposure and of biological effects.

The production and use of chemical products continues to grow worldwide, particularly in developing countries. This is likely to result in greater negative effect on health if sound chemicals management is not ensured. Multisectoral action is urgently needed to protect human health from the harmful effects of improperly managed chemicals.

Chemical compatibility plays an important role in a chemical processing industry. It is a measure of how stable a substance is when mixed with another substance. If two substances can mix together and undergo a chemical reaction, they are considered incompatible.

Chemical compatibility is important when choosing materials for chemical storage or reactions, so that the vessel and other apparatus will not be damaged by its contents. For purposes of chemical storage, chemicals that are incompatible should not be stored together so that any leak will not cause an even more dangerous situation by reacting after leaking. In addition, chemical compatibility refers to the container material being



acceptable to store the chemical or for a tool or object that comes in contact with a chemical to not degrade. For example, when stirring a chemical the stirrer must be stable in the chemical that is being stirred.

Because of this *Apcotex Industries Limited* publish Material Safety Data Sheets and Compatibility Matrix to help chemical users on the site and off the site to use appropriate materials for handling chemicals and for reactions. Such charts are particularly important for polymers as they are often not compatible with common chemical reagents and will even depend on how the polymers are processed.

- Vinod Lonkar
Executive-Production, Taloja

Quality Culture

“Quality means doing it right when no one is looking.”

--- Henry Ford

In every aspect of our life the word QUALITY means a lot. In our day to day life also when we visit to vegetable market, stationary, electronics, costumes shops... etc.

everywhere we look for something which appeals us to buy the product. In case vegetable we look for freshness, in electronic gadgets we look for the features, aesthetic and performance. In the costumes we look for colour, texture of the fabric... etc. All the underlined

words are dimension of quality. **What can be the definition of quality? Quite often quality defines as:**

- Conformance to the specification.
- The measure of excellence or state of being free from defects, deficiencies and significant variations.
- Quality means “Performance upon expectations” and “fit for functions.”

When people hear the word quality then the picture of Laboratory set up, sampling, testing and pass/fail remarks moves around their eyesight. The other function thinks that it is not our look out. Why this happens? This happens because many industries follow the standards for the sake of certification. The display of the printed version of quality policy is good but it is necessary to transform it in the mind of the employees. In any industry an active involvement of quality conscious employees is very much essential to produce consistent quality product.

In other words organization needs to have the “Quality Culture”. What is Quality Culture?

Lee Harvey and Diana Green – (University of Central England) defines Quality Culture as:- “A culture of quality is one in which everybody in the organization, not just the quality controllers, is responsible for quality.” As companies begin to develop their quality culture, the authors explained, they begin to adopt the philosophy if doing things right the first time. This type of behavior extends responsibility for quality beyond the quality group, out to the entire organization.

What are the practical ways to inculcate “Quality Culture?”

- **Holistic nature:** One effective way to do this is to encourage employees to adopt a mindset that every product they work on, regardless of which stage they touch it, eventually will be used on a family member.

This approach establishes a holistic nature to quality culture that will impact all aspects of your business - from

product development all the way to commercialization practices.

Like in case of our industry the product produced by us are used for human safety. Examples: VP latex: if it fails then tire will fail and this will directly affect human life.

Construction latex: if it fails then possibility of roof leakage and this will affect human shelter in rainy season.

Carpet latex: if it fails the possibility of skidding of carpet and this will create fall hazard for human.

Glove latex: if it fails the possibility of health hygiene for human.

This approach establishes a holistic nature to quality culture that will impact all aspects of your business - from product development all the way to commercialization practices.

- **Education:** Training is another tool. But as per the research effect of training lasts for the month only. Training and education are different. We don't train our kids we educate them. Education stimulates the thought process to deal in adverse situation.

- **Gemba walk:** Gemba walks denote the action of going to see the actual process, understand the work, ask questions, and learn. It is also known as one fundamental part of Lean management philosophy. Taiichi Ohno, an executive at Toyota, led the development of the concept of the Gemba Walk. The Gemba Walk is an opportunity for staff to stand back from their day-to-day tasks to walk the floor of their workplace to identify wasteful activities. The objective of Gemba Walk is to understand the value stream and its problems rather than review results or make superficial comments.

--- Sunil Popeta
Asst. Manager-R&D, Taloja



Apcotex - a giant leap with Gloves Latex

Every year, millions of health care, first responder, and industry workers are exposed to chemical and biological hazards. Disposable nitrile gloves are a common choice as both a chemical and physical barrier to these hazards, especially as an alternative to natural latex gloves. The current corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic has greatly changed our perspective of the risk for infection from contact, and the use of personal protective devices (PPDs) usually reserved for health care workers has spread to the general population.

The extensive usage of nitrile gloves in the healthcare industry for both surgical and examination applications will propel market growth.



Furthermore, the rising demand for industrial application is also projected to augment the nitrile latex market in near future.

The extensive usage of nitrile gloves in the healthcare industry for both surgical and examination applications will propel market growth. Furthermore, the rising demand for industrial application is also projected to augment the nitrile latex market in the coming years. According to the latest report by Global Market Insights Inc., the nitrile latex market was estimated at 3.5 billion US dollar in 2020 and is slated to exceed 4 billion US dollar by 2027, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.5% from 2021 to 2027. The ongoing expansion of various industrial sectors has created an enormous demand for not only products that facilitate the manufacturing processes but also those that are required for personal protection.

We the Apcotex Industries Limited is one of the leading producers of performance emulsion polymers in

India. Over the past several years, we have developed a strong Research & Development base, which has enabled us to develop, manufacture and export nitrile latex and compete effectively against global players. Through our technical service team and well-equipped glove dipping laboratory, we believe in providing value added services to enable customers to constantly improve the quality of our final product. Apcotex has significant global presence and for last few years has done business in all continents and several countries. Our ongoing nitrile latex expansions will help us to become Apcotex Industries Limited, one of the major providers of nitrile latex to the world market.



It is important to wear gloves when working with hazardous chemicals and other materials because they protect our hands from infection and contamination. Protective gloves should be selected on the basis of the hazards involved. Wear gloves when your hands may come into contact with infectious materials, radioactive materials, oils and chemicals. We, the Apcotex Industries Limited have broad spectrum of nitrile latex to meet and fulfill the various demands of industry as well as medical field. Our various grades of nitrile latex are currently used to make examination gloves, supported gloves and Industrial gloves by leading glove manufacturers all

continued on page no. 11...



Apcotex Technical Service Team

SPC - Statistical Process Control at Apcotex

"Without Data you're just another person with an opinion."
— W. Edwards Deming

Delivery of Quality products to our esteemed customers is one of the most sought traits here in Apcotex. Our focus is on delivering the right product at the first time. However, achieving "First Time Right" product is quite a challenge when deliverable volumes are high. In a typical manufacturing, quality control approach compares results against the customer's specifications, and the result is a Pass/Fail decision. It does not predict the quality of next produced batch/product. It also fails to address the Process Variability. It is prudent to dig the Normal variations pattern for process and maintain it by continual process monitoring. Any variation that is not align in the line of



Normal variation pattern i.e. Special cause needs immediate attention. Statistical Process control (SPC) provides techniques for measuring, monitoring, analysing the data points and helps in decision-making basis on scientific evidences. Elimination of special causes of variation make process statistically controlled. However, SPC is much more than just analysing manufacturing processes, when supported by tools like Lean, Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), 5S, and Kaizen, most if not all defects can be eliminated Apcotex

Industries Limited is a fully automated DCS controlled manufacturing industry. Our plants are equipped with automation with competent staff. All process data is Real-time captured through system that enables us delivering defect-free products.

Our Six key principles to ensure products meet customers' needs and have zero defects includes:

1. 5S—Helps in maintaining our operation visually monitored.
2. TPM—Helps in maintaining Zero Incidents ZERO Defects.
3. Kaizen—Motivate us to strive for continual improvements.
4. Lean—Helps us controlling our wastes.
5. Six-Sigma—Helps us in achieving consistency.
6. OAAP - Helps in solving our problems.
 - Observe and define the problem.
 - Analyse the cause of the problem.
 - Actions Plan against each cause for sustainable resolution

"It would be better if everyone worked together as a system, with the aim for everybody to win."

---W. Edwards Deming

- Nishith Soni

Manager - Production & Process Improvement



continued from page no. 10...

Apcotex - a giant leap with Gloves Latex

around the world. In times of the global pandemic of the corona virus outbreak (COVID-19), our priority remains the safety of its employees and their families while at the same time maintaining business operations in order to ensure supply security to our customers. Customers can expect that Apcotex Industries Limited takes every measure necessary to ensure business continuity whilst adhering to its high health and safety standards.

--- Dr. SREENATH P. R. (Ph. D.)
Technical Services- Nitrile Gloves,
Apcotex Industries Limited

Dr. Sreenath is having 4 years experience in manufacturing, testing and technical support to customers. He has completed his Ph.D. from Indian Institute of Technology in the field of polymer science and Technology.



He also has filed a few international patents as well his articles were also been published on the subject, 'Polymer Science and Technology' in Internationally Peer reviewed journals.

GMP @ Apcotex in Taloja and Valia Facility

We the Apcotex Industries Limited are not only running our manufacturing facilities in business point of view, apart from that we also have health, safety, quality and manufacturing efficiency in mind. Maintaining high standards in productivity and efficiency is not only the good news, along with that we need to keeps our employees and our customers safe also.

To fulfil these requirements we the Apcotex Industries Limited are going to implement GMP (Good Manufacturing practices) guidelines at Taloja and Valia plant. Let's try to understand how these essential regulations can benefit your business and full fill the Apcotex requirement.

What Are Good Manufacturing Practices?

Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) is a system for ensuring that products are consistently produced and controlled according to quality standards. It is designed to minimize the risks involved in any production that cannot be eliminated through testing the final product.

For example the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) set out current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) in the United States. These regulations focus on design, monitoring, and maintenance. They also look at control in all manufacturing processes and for good standards to be kept at all times.

The onus on these regulations is that you maintain good current standards. That means that you need to maintain best-practice based on the most up-to-date technology. This should be done instead of using guidelines from several years ago.

Who Follows GMP?

FDA-GMP regulations cover a wide range of industries. These includes mainly:

- The production of food
- Medical equipment manufacturing
- The production of prescription medication
- The manufacture of biotechnology
- The production of cosmetics.

These standards are implemented by manufacturers from around the globe to gain the confidence of customer that their product manufactured under strict guideline of GMP.

What Do the Practices Cover?

The regulations cover a broad range of areas. These practices ensure that products that can cause a health risk to consumers or the environment are manufactured to the highest standards.

This means the following:

- Ensuring good standards of hygiene
- Keeping products at the correct temperature
- Ensuring there is no risk of cross-contamination
- Ensuring there is no adulteration during the process of manufacturing

These requirements are for quality, strength, purity, and identity of the final product.

These are some of the key areas that covered by good manufacturing practices:

GMP at Apcotex Industries Limited

We the Apcotex Industries Limited are in the process of being a GMP certified company since most of its products are in direct contact with human beings. For example our nitrile latex is widely used around the world by leading glove manufacturers for the production of examination gloves. The nitrile latex made as per GMP meaning they are produced and controlled to ensure conformity with the applicable rules and applicable quality standards. This applies to all activities; through procurement through approved suppliers of materials and all aspects of manufacturing, processing, handling, storage and distribution of the finished article. At Apcotex we are going to carry out our own internal and external audits to ensure that we are complying at all these key areas.

It is our assurance to the all customers that we the Apcotex Industries Limited will ensure that GMP are met at all times, furthermore we are planning to create policies and procedures that are designed to maintain a higher standard than those mentioned in the regulations.

- Pravin Khutale
Asst. Manager-R&D, Taloja



KEY ELEMNTS OF cGMP

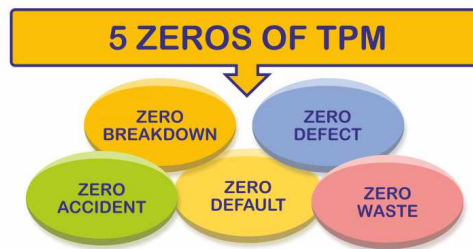


TPM Implementation @ Apcotex; Valia Facility

TPM OBJECTIVES

Objective is Achieving “5 ZEROS” in our plant and these five Zeros are:

- Zero breakdown
- Zero Defect
- Zero accident
- Zero default
- Zero Waste



Major losses in Process Industry...

What is loss?

Loss is defined as anything which is not desired or in other words wastage of: **Time, Material, Money, Manpower & Energy etc.**

TPM aims to achieve maximum possible efficiency of the overall production system:

1: Elimination / reduction of all losses and 2. Involvement of all people.

Why loss occur?

Whenever an operation exceeds its standard timings

Whenever an operation is intercepted

Whenever a non-value adding operation is performed

Whenever a machine is idle when it should have given the rated output

Consuming additional time, money, energy than the specific norms etc.

Our efforts is always to reduce / eliminate all losses and we are achieving this goal by embracing the TPM culture whole heartedly right from beginning since the TPM Kick-off day held on 4th April 2017.

JH Step-4 Training at Plant Level

TPM Secretariat and Engineering Department jointly organized TPM General Awareness Training, Autonomous Maintenance Training & Combined Training at various level.

Equipment Inspections

Equipment Inspection Point (I/P) help in viewing sensitive parameters like vibration, Lube oil level, match marking, Pressure and Temperature gauges, erting



strips etc. and to identify any deviation from normal operating range.

LOTO - Lock Out - Tag Out:

LOTO - Lock Out - Tag Out is a safety procedure used in industry to ensure that dangerous machines are properly shut off and not able to be started up again prior to the completion of maintenance or repair work.

Employees / workers can be seriously or fatally injured if machinery they service or maintain unexpectedly energizes, starts up or releases stored energy.

Earlier it had been done without lock & key by simply isolating the feeder supply only. But now a days, lock is provided on feeder & its key is kept with process department. After completion of job, process department provides lock-in tag & electrical technician remove the lock & switch on the control & power supply.



We have provided locking arrangement in reactors, flash tanks & blend tanks feeders where vessel entry is carried out.

Housekeeping

The basic concept of housekeeping has started from keeping a domestic house clean and has gradually come to maintaining high standards of cleanliness and maintenance at workplace.

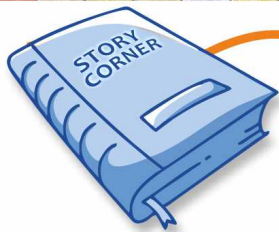
Housekeeping in simple words means maintaining a house on a daily or long term basis or looking after its cleanliness, tidiness, upkeep and smooth running.

In other words, we may also say that housekeeping is a process of keeping a place neat & clean and well maintained so that it looks and feels pleasant and inviting to all, either living, visiting or working there.

Safety Measures

Good housekeeping program plans and manages the orderly storage and movement of materials from point of entry to exit. It includes a material flow plan to ensure minimal handling. The plan also ensures that work areas

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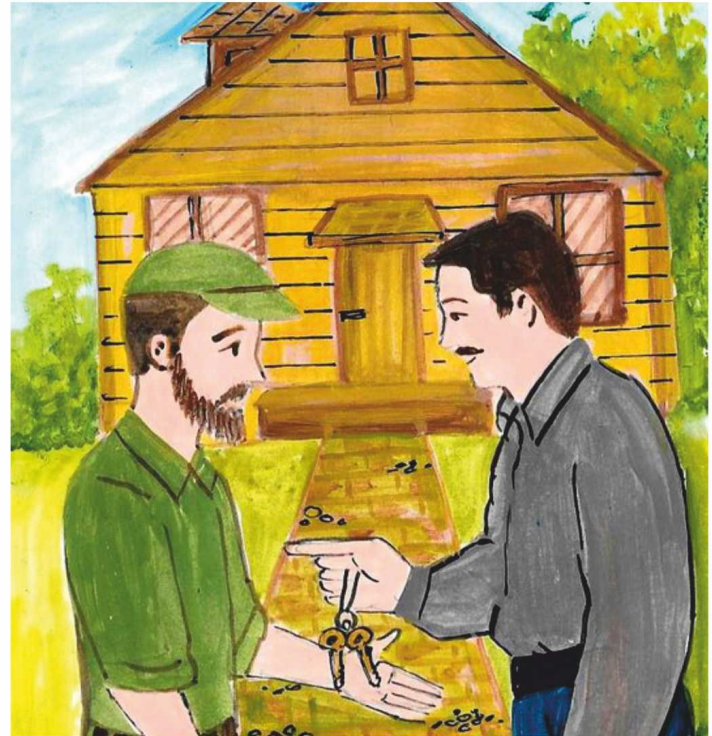
An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter said yes, but in time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work and the builder came to inspect the house, the contractor handed the front-door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said, "my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So it is with us! We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built. If we had realized, we would have done it differently.



Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think of your life as the house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board or erect a wall, build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity.

The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project." Your life tomorrow will be the result of your attitudes and the choices you make today.

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TPM Implementation @ Apcotex - Valia Facility

are not used as storage areas by having workers move materials to and from work areas as needed. Part of the plan could include investing in extra bins and more frequent disposal.

Training is an essential part of any good housekeeping program. Employees need to know how to work safely with the products they use. They also need to know how to protect other workers and reporting any unusual conditions.

Housekeeping order is "maintained" not just at the end of the shift. Integrating housekeeping into jobs can help ensure this is done. A good housekeeping program identifies and assigns responsibilities for the following:

- Clean up during the shift
- Day-to-day cleanup
- Waste disposal
- Removal of unused materials
- Inspection to ensure cleanup is complete

The documents on workplace inspection checklists provide a general guide and examples of checklists for inspecting offices and manufacturing facilities.

Plant Management by 5S

Plant management starts with 5S. Workplaces without *Seiri and Seiton* cannot produce good quality. Almost always, workplaces with low morale are disorderly and lack discipline. Thorough implementation of *Seiri and Seiton* is the first step of making a good workplace.

Relation between 5S and TPM

Concept of 5S has been developed synergistic with TPM to improve the manufacturing performance as a result of intense global competition. 5S practice is a well-recognized key to quality and productivity and for improving the work environment, so it becomes the starting point of a TPM programmed.

- Kashim M. Khan
Sr. Manager - QEIMS, Valia

What Our Top Brasses Expresses about QUALITY

Apcotex assures our esteemed customers that we will provide consistent supplies and strive hard to add value to your business by ensuring that the quality of our products consistently matches your requirements. Apcotex has very high safety and quality standards as well as state-of-the-art R&D, Technical Service and Applications labs. With your goodwill and co-operation, we are confident that we will continue to be your preferred vendor in the days ahead.



- **Debabrata C.**
VP - Sales and Marketing

Start with QUALITY, Destination will be EXCELLENCE.

- **Sanjay Desai**
AVP - Production, Valia



One should take care of the product quality like the mother who takes care of her baby

- **G. R. Manmode**
DGM - Production, Talaja



Quality is never an Accident: it is the result of intelligent efforts.

- **Shrishail Aland**
DGM - R&D, Valia



QUALITY is Not Expensive, it's PRICELESS

- **Bharat Patel**
Sr. Manager - Maintenance, Valia

Every action is an opportunity to improve but Quality is more important than quantity

- **Kashim M. Khan**
Sr. Manager - QEIMS, Valia



Quality is everyone's responsibility.
Quality Attracts Quality.

- **Paras Jain**
Sr. Officer - QC, Valia

Quality Means Business, Quality is Priority!

- **Manish Goel**
VP - Commercial



Quality is Pride of Workmanship.

- **Kaushik Patel**
VP - Works, Valia



When it comes to quality we never forget who we are working for. We put you first. And keep you ahead. This is the "Quality Motto" of each & every employee of Apcotex. We believe that Quality only happens when you Care Enough to Do Your Best.

- **Jaideep Tewani**
AVP - Sales and Marketing



Quality gives credibility and credibility enhances self-esteem which inspires us to perform more and perform qualitatively and it is conformance to customer expectations.

- **Bhagvan Panda**
DGM-Technical



Quality is not an act, it is a habit.

- **Jayesh Pathiyar**
DGM-Production, Valia

Quality means doing it right, when no one is looking.

- **Jignesh Goswami**
Sr. Manager-QC, Valia



Quality is a choice, choose to make it better.

- **Dr. Kishor Rajdeo**
Manager - R&D, Valia

“A Thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us.”

- James E. Faust

Dear All,

As a one-of-the-active members from editorial committee of Apcotex 'Quality Chronicle', it's our immense pleasure to publish and present this 'Inaugural Edition' in front of sensible readers like you.

As we decided to publish and present quarterly magazine based on qualitative approach of Apcotex in its products; services, and processes, we have received although sensitive but more of practical advices which precisely controlled a few maddening activities in this journey.

First of all, I owe much gratitude to our Chairman Shri. Atul Choksey; our Managing Director Shri. Abhiraj Choksey, and Shri. Ravi Shankar Sharma-Chief Operating Officer, for just not only letting us go ahead on this project but for their sage instructions, amiable reviews, ring, and well-wishes!

I would also be thankful to Dr. S.V. Govindaraju – AVP R&D and Technical for accepting our request to be the Chief Editor and mentoring us in this enormous journey as well as for his caring inquisitions and judicious guidance (as a hobbyist and experienced and editor of a vernacular publication).

Also I am expressing my thanks to Shri Ajay Kharkar Sir, Shri. Kaushik Patel, VP-Works from Valia, Shri. Sanjay Desai-AVP, Production from Valia, Shri. R.R. Sawant – AVP HR as well member of our Editorial Committee, Shri. G.R. Manmode Plant Head of Taloja facility, for their timely observations to make our instinct - 'Quality Chronicle' into reality!

I am also very much thankful to Dr. Sreenath PR (Executive-Technical Services, Taloja) and Shri. Jignesh Goswami (Sr. Manager-QC Valia) honourable members

of editorial committee who contributed a lot to make this magazine and all other preparations for 'Quality Week Celebrations' into existence!

I would be like in onus to my associates; Messieurs Hemant Choudhari and Kashim Khan – Management Representatives from Taloja and Valia respectively, Pravin Khutale (Asst. Manager-R&D), Sachin Penkar (Executive-QC), Sunil Popeta (Asst. Manager-R&D), Kiran Khutale (Sr. Officer-QC), and Arun Gaikar (Sr. Officer-QC) for their valuable inputs; state-of-the-art suggestions and meticulous support to get this magazine done in timely manner!

I also appreciates the painstaking efforts taken by Mr. Omkumar and his team from M/s. Urja Art & Advertising, in a variety of manner to design and print 'Quality Chronicle' up to a constructive close!

It is fair to conclude that, Apcotex 'Quality Chronicle' is a grand success and an another feather in Apcotex's Qualitative Approach; for which tangible and intangible contributions by so many peoples in so many ways were made till date!

Hereby, if I overlooked to mention someone who contributed aptly, treat it as my personal gaffe and forgive me considering to err is human!

Last but not the least, I would be indebted to the valued readers of this magazine; who rationally appraise our determinations and make them to a royal affluence! Your assessments are most welcome!!!

Till then bye-bye and see you soon!!!!



Dr. Ajay Kumar Pandey
Sub-Editor 'Quality Chronicle'
Head QA-Apcotex Industries Limited



Our Customers... Our Pride!

Adherence to high quality in our products and value added services ensures our customers to maintain the quality of their products on world-class level and sustaining it throughout all their processes. Due to which, we have maintained a significant presence in domestic market as well as in international market too.

Here we would like to introduce few of our customers!



SATISFIED CUSTOMER IS THE BEST BUSINESS STRATEGY!

Meanwhile enthusiastically the preparations are going on for grand celebration of
“INTERNATIONAL QUALITY WEEK”
in the form of Invitation and Wall Murals etc.

