Global Rubber Gloves Market Report

2013
Executive Summary

Being a necessity item, especially in the healthcare and food industry, the demand for rubber gloves remained robust in 2012 despite the Euro-zone debt crisis. Other major factors that boosted this demand include growing healthcare awareness, healthcare reforms with more stringent regulations following H1N1 scare and decreasing raw material costs worldwide. The emerging economies offer huge growth potential to the rubber glove manufacturers given the low penetration of gloves in these regions. With the substantial rise in the prices of natural rubber latex over the past 2 years, there has been a shift in the demand towards nitrile gloves. As a result, the majority of gloves manufacturers are either building up new nitrile glove production capacity or switching existing production capacity from natural rubber to nitrile rubber.

Malaysia dominates the global glove market as the largest producer and exporter of rubber gloves. It has the major advantage of raw material availability, infrastructure, R&D, development of supporting industries and support from government agencies over other countries by its side which further solidify its position on the global front. Other leading nations that produce rubber gloves include Thailand and Indonesia.

The four topmost rubber gloves manufacturers include Top Glove, Supermax, Kossan and Hartalega. All these companies have rolled out their production plans to supply better products and to meet the increasing demand globally. Although the industry has maintained its growth momentum, the major bottlenecks are labor shortage, fluctuating NBR prices, imposition of minimum wage by Malaysia, shortage of natural gas and hikes in gas tariffs.

The report provides an analysis of the global rubber gloves market. It also discusses major trends, growth drivers and potential markets. It also presents the competitive structure of the industry and profiles major players with a discussion of their key business strategies.

By combining SPSS Inc.’s data integration and analysis capabilities with our relevant findings, we have predicted the future growth of the industry. We employed various significant variables that have an impact on this industry and created regression models with SPSS Base to determine the future direction of the industry. Before deploying the regression model, the relationship between several independent or predictor variables and the dependent variable was analyzed using standard SPSS output, including charts, tables and tests.
Various types of rubber gloves are used in multiple fields. The major categories are latex or natural rubber (NR) and nitrile or synthetic rubber (SR).

- Total global production of natural rubber (NR) reached .......... million tonnes in 2012, an increase of ........% over the previous year of 2011. However, consumption of the same declined from ..........million tonnes in 2011 to .......... million tonnes in 2012. During the same year, the volume of exports were .......... million tonnes and imports were .......... million tonnes.

- Asia-Pacific is the largest NR producer totaling .......... million tonnes of the global production as of the year end 2012. In terms of NR consumption, Asia is the leader mainly because of its growing tyre sector and the increasing demand of other rubber products including footwear, surgical goods and rubberized clothes. The plantation of natural rubber in Asia increased at the rate of at......% and ..........% in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

- Globally, the leading NR producing countries are Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam. All these four nations collectively accounted for around .............% of the global production in 2012. The leading consumers of NR are China, the US, India, Japan and Malaysia with ..........%, ............%, ..........% and ..........%, respectively.

- China is the ............ producer and consumer of synthetic rubber globally. The country is expected to witness an increase in the demand of SR as it owns large production plants of tyres and other rubber products. Other major consumers of SR include the US, Japan, Korea and Germany. The leading companies to manufacture synthetic rubber in the world include Dow Chemicals, Sinopec, Versalis, Asahi, Kasei and Synthos.
Malaysia holds 9th position globally in the consumption of rubber and 7th position in the consumption of NR. ..

- The worldwide consumption of rubber gloves reached ...........billion pieces in 2012, an increase of .....% from 2011. The demand of gloves suddenly surged to ...... billion pieces in 2010 because of H1N1 flu pandemic which started in China and killed approximately ......people globally. For the year 2012, the demand was higher for all market segments with powdered latex gloves being the most popular among developing countries.

- In China, the per capita consumption of gloves per annum was as low as ......given its high population. Similarly in Africa, per capita consumption of gloves was ........

- Globally, Malaysia is the largest country to produce rubber gloves. The total value of Malaysian rubber gloves market increased from US$....... billion (MYR......... billion) in 2011 to US$....... billion (MYR .....billion) in 2012.

Global Consumption of Rubber Gloves (2004-2013F)

Comparison of Per Capita Consumption of Rubber Gloves (2012)

Malaysia Rubber Gloves Output by Value (2007-2012)
Emerging markets in the Asian region like China, India, along with Africa and Middle East present huge growth potential given the low penetration of glove usage in their healthcare industry.

- Malaysia’s exports of SR gloves registered a gradual increase as compared to NR gloves during the period of 2009 to 2012. The SR gloves comprise ........% of rubber glove exports in 2012, which is more than double from ........% in 2009.
- In 2012, US imports of SR gloves reached as high as ........ billion gloves whereas, while the same for NR gloves have been declining year after year and reached.........billion units in 2012.
- The top four Malaysian rubber gloves manufacturers, namely, Top Glove, Hartalega, Kossan and Supermax, are projected to register a CAGR of ........% in next three years. Among all the glove manufacturers, Top Glove has the highest capacity of........billion pieces as of 2012 and also the highest expected capacity of ........ billion pieces. While other manufacturers like Supermax, Kossan and Hartalega will have expected production capacities at ........ billion pieces, ........ billion pieces and ........ billion pieces, respectively, at the end of 2013.
Over the past years, there has been a notable rise in the demand of gloves whenever there is an outbreak of flu or viral diseases. 

- In terms of production capacity, Top Glove was the market leader with a share of ........% in 2011. Supermax had the second largest production capacity with a share of ........%, followed by Kossan, Hartelega, Latex Partners having shares of ........%, ........% and ........% respectively at the end of year 2011.

- The rubber gloves market has positive outlook for the period of 2012 to 2017, chiefly on the back of increasing healthcare expenditure, hygiene awareness, and health threats across the globe. The demand for rubber gloves is forecasted to increase at a CAGR of ........% during 2012 to 2017 reaching 213 billion pieces by the end of this period. This demand will be further driven by other factors including the possibility of governments in developing countries where the use of gloves in the healthcare sector is being made compulsory; recovering global economy and consequent rise in the living standards, among others. Given the price advantage of nitrile over latex, the share of nitrile gloves will continue to increase in the years ahead; however the demand for gloves made by natural rubber, especially powdered gloves, which are the cheapest and entry-level medical grade gloves, will remain high in the developing countries.

Note: Market attractiveness is inverse of penetration. Low penetration means high attractiveness and vice-versa.