

Mitsui Chemicals Group Risks

BUSINESS RISKS

The Mitsui Chemicals Group recognizes that management activities may be threatened by a wide range of conceivable and apparent risks. For this reason, the Group is dedicated to crafting initiatives able to prevent or minimize the escalation of these risks.

The items detailed below represent some of the risks that could potentially and adversely impact the Group's future operating performance and financial position. Readers are cautioned that this partial list does not constitute all of the risks faced by Mitsui Chemicals.

Please note that the risks discussed below were those deemed relevant as of March 31, 2007.

(1) EXTERNAL OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Mitsui Chemicals Group businesses may be influenced by certain elements of the operating environment outside of the Group, including customers, market trends and the business operations of rival firms. With respect to products, a variety of risks could conceivably result in a decline in profitability. These include, but are not limited to, an erosion of market demand, the decision by customers to source products from overseas, deterioration in market conditions caused by oversupply due to increased production capacity at rival firms or the market entry of low-priced imports, and the appearance of alternative products. Profitability may also decline due to the rising cost of raw materials, as well as the impact of supply stoppages due to accidents or bankruptcies at raw material manufacturers. Any or all of these risks could impair the Group's production activities. Consequently, the occurrence of such risks could adversely impact the Group's operating performance.

(2) OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES (COUNTRY RISK)

The Mitsui Chemicals Group is involved in a wide range of activities outside of Japan, from the export of products to production at overseas bases. These activities overseas are subject to various risks, including deterioration in political and economic conditions, regulations regarding imports and foreign capital, deterioration in public safety and security, and the outbreak of terrorism or warfare. The occurrence of such risks could impair Group business activities overseas, which may adversely impact operating performance.

(3) CHANGES IN LAWS AND TIGHTENING OF REGULATIONS

The business development of the Mitsui Chemicals Group is subject to a wide range of legal acts and ordinances, which include a variety of licensing and regulatory requirements. Consequently, the Group remains keenly aware that its continued survival as a corporation is contingent on strict compliance with laws and regulations. To this end, the Group has enacted training programs that incorporate examples of

legal violations within and outside Mitsui Chemicals together with other initiatives aimed at promoting legal compliance.

Other risks faced by the Mitsui Chemicals Group are the prospect of major changes to or a tightening of laws relevant to the Group, or unexpected amendments to laws and regulations overseas. Restrictions placed on Group activities, as well as increased costs associated with compliance with amended laws or more stringent regulations, could impair Group business activities, thus adversely impacting operating performance.

(4) FINANCIAL RISKS

Among the financial risks faced by the Mitsui Chemicals Group are increased concerns about confidence in customers due to deteriorating economic conditions, currency exchange losses due to dramatic fluctuations in exchange rates, and rising interest rates and a reluctance to lend by financial institutions with respect to fund procurement. The occurrence of any one of these risks could adversely impact the Group's financial position.

(5) ACCIDENTS AND DISASTERS

In an effort to ensure workplace safety, the Mitsui Chemicals Group vigorously promotes OHSAS 18001 certification of the occupational health and safety management systems used in its production activities at plants. Nevertheless, the Group faces risks in this area from a variety of unforeseen events, including damage to production facilities caused by natural disasters such as major earthquakes and typhoons, plant accidents, and accidents during the course of product transport or storage at warehousing facilities outside the Group. The occurrence of these risks may not only impede plant operations or the supply of products to customers, thereby adversely impacting the Group's operating performance and financial position, but could also potentially undermine the social standing of the Mitsui Chemicals Group.

(6) QUALITY

To uphold its quality assurance system, the Mitsui Chemicals Group vigorously promotes efforts to obtain ISO 9001 certification of the quality management systems at each of its plants. Nevertheless, the Group faces risks from the discovery of unforeseen quality defects in its products and product liability lawsuits. Because many Group products are used as raw materials in finished consumer goods, the appearance of large-scale customer recalls due to product defects could potentially result in massive damages. The occurrence of these risks may not only adversely impact the Group's operating performance and financial position, but could also potentially undermine the social standing of the Mitsui Chemicals Group.