

NEWSLETTER

CHEMICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL

22 - 28 June 2026



China Approves World's First Recombinant Botulinum Toxin Type a Drug

China has granted marketing authorization to Retoxin®, a pioneering recombinant botulinum toxin developed by Claruvis Pharmaceutical. This approval marks a historic shift for the industry, moving away from traditional bacterial extraction toward a precision genetic engineering manufacturing process. Experts note that this breakthrough offers higher purity and safety compared to conventional methods. **(National Medical Products Administration)**

China Sets Four-Year Deadline for Confirmatory Trials of Conditionally Approved Drugs

China has issued new regulations requiring drugmakers to complete post-marketing confirmatory studies within four years. Failing to meet this deadline or secure an extension may result in the revocation of the drug's registration certificate. Regulators stated that this policy aims to close existing loopholes that allowed some drugs to remain conditionally approved without verifying full efficacy. **(National Medical Products Administration)**

China's Phosphate Rock Exports Surge 189.6% MoM in May

Customs data reveals that China's phosphate rock exports surged by 189.6% month-on-month in May 2026, reaching 32,000 tons. This strong rebound followed a temporary export suspension in April due to mine maintenance and logistics. Hubei and Guizhou, the two core producing provinces, fully resumed international shipments, exporting 21,000 tons and 5,000 tons respectively, stabilizing the global supply of tight, high-grade ore. **(ChemNet)**

China Designates Phosphate Rock as National Strategic Resource

Effective June 15, 2026, China officially classified phosphate rock as a national strategic mineral resource under State Council Decree No. 839. Alongside lithium and rare earths, phosphate is now subject to strict, full-chain regulation covering exploration, mining, reserves, and import-export. This legal upgrade shifts phosphate to a critical strategic resource, securing national food safety and the new energy industry. **(ChemNet)**

Sulfur Vessel Heads to China While 500,000 Tons Remain Blocked

Following a US-Iran peace agreement, the vessel "Xin Qi Men" loaded 81,600 tons of sulfur in the UAE and is now sailing to China. Despite this shipment, Argus reports that roughly 500,000 tons of sulfur remain backlogged in the Strait of Hormuz amid high shipping risks. Conflict since February 28 has severely disrupted supply chains, reducing regional sulfur exports to just 10% of normal levels. **(ChemNet)**