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WEB RELEASE

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PlastiStab Barium Building Block Price Increase Announcement

Effective July 1, 2011 Halstab is raising the price of its line of barium based building blocks. These barium based products are all made utilizing barium hydroxide. Barium hydroxide is currently produced by only a handful of suppliers in the world. Some comes from Europe and some from China.

One of the major European producers had to curtail production due to environmental problems and the Chinese producers are sold out. This has caused a dramatic rise in the cost of barium hydroxide. Barium hydroxide prices have risen by over 60 percent in the last two months and are likely to go higher.

Halstab has no choice but to pass on this cost increase. We regret very much the unprecedented size of the increases but have absolutely no choice given the market circumstances. Effective immediately, we are also eliminating price protection beyond thirty days due to the instability of barium hydroxide pricing.

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