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Design Thinking: A Strategic Tool for Supply Chain Innovation

Supply chain leaders increasingly use data science to optimize operations, but raw data must be refined into actionable insights. Design thinking—a five-step, human-centered methodology—helps transform complex supply chain challenges into practical solutions by emphasizing empathy, collaboration, and iteration. It ensures emerging technologies like digital twins are user-friendly and relevant while bridging the gap between data scientists and operational teams through analytics translators. By prioritizing usability and rapid prototyping, design thinking enhances agility, mitigates disruptions, and drives smarter decision-making in an unpredictable global landscape.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

Bio-Methanol Market Trends and Regulatory Impacts

The spread between biomethanol and conventional methanol has hit a nine-month high at \$734/t, driven by falling European methanol prices due to increased US imports and a major plant restart. Biomethanol prices have risen alongside the biofuels complex, supported by stronger renewable fuel ticket prices and higher demand in the UK and Europe. The FuelEU Maritime regulations, which mandate lower shipping emissions, could further boost biomethanol demand.

Source: Argus Media

Digital Product Passports: A Game Changer for U.S. Manufacturing

The European Union introduced Digital Product Passports (DPPs) in March 2024 to enhance supply chain transparency, with enforcement set for 2026. While the EU is actively integrating DPPs, the U.S. has yet to adopt this approach, relying on fragmented pilot programs rather than systemic changes. Early adoption of DPP principles can help U.S. manufacturers improve traceability, efficiency, and competitiveness, positioning them as industry leaders.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

Gartner Report: Supply Chain Success Depends on Long-Term Strategy

A Gartner survey found that only 29% of supply chain organizations have the key strengths needed to tackle future challenges. Successful companies prioritize long-term strategies, focusing on agility, resilience, and integrated ecosystems, while others struggle with short-term fixes. The study also highlights the growing role of AI and evolving trade policies in shaping supply chain competitiveness.

ECHA to Assess Harmful Chemicals in Packaging for Safer, Sustainable Recycling

The new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation assigns ECHA the task of identifying chemicals of concern in packaging and assessing their impact on safety, reuse, and recycling, with a report due by September 2026. Based on this study, the European Commission may impose restrictions on harmful substances through the REACH process.

Source: Supply Chain 247

Source: ECHA Europa

Achieving Real Impact on Sustainability

Despite strong commitments to sustainability, 98% of large companies fail to achieve their goals. Research identifies seven key pitfalls, including performative compliance, prioritizing reporting over impact, and failing to integrate sustainability into core business KPIs. Effective sustainability tension management (STM) is crucial for balancing economic, social, and environmental tradeoffs.

Source: Trellis

Study Finds Endocrine Disruptors in Hand Soaps, Urges Safer Choices

A Danish Consumer Council THINK Chemicals investigation found suspected endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in 14 out of 50 tested hand soaps, while 20 received the highest safety rating. These chemicals, including certain fragrances and UV filters, may contribute to health risks like reproductive issues and hormone-related cancers.

Source: Chem Trust

CONTACT US :

Arjun Srivastava
arjunsrivastava@apacss.com



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APAC Sourcing Solutions Ltd | 414, Suncity Business Towers Golf Course Road | Gurugram, HR 122002 IN

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