

Specialty Chemical Manufacturers: America's Ready-to-Go Production Engine



Executive Summary: *SOCMA represents 140 specialty chemical manufacturers who are ready now to support the Administration's goals for supply chain resilience, advanced manufacturing, and economic security through our Vision 2030 initiative.*

Who We Are

SOCMA—the Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates—represents 140 specialty chemical companies. **80% are U.S. small businesses deeply rooted in their communities.** Many are led by executives who cut their teeth at major corporations but chose a more entrepreneurial path—where they can move fast, bypass bureaucracy, and make a real impact.

SOCMA members aren't making everyday chemicals or bulk commodities. Instead, they produce specialty materials—these are custom-made chemicals that serve a particular function in a product.

We are the engine behind America's innovation economy. Our members make advanced technologies work. Without these specialized chemicals, critical industries like semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, defense, and agriculture wouldn't function properly. These materials aren't visible in the final product, but they are essential to how it performs.

These application-specific chemistries are engineered for precision, reliability, and functionality—meaning they have to perform exactly right, every time, because they're often used in products where failure isn't an option (like a jet engine or a life-saving drug).



Oil & Gas

Enabling energy through essential, high-performance chemicals for oil production.



Semi Conductors

Specialty chemicals used to make precise cuts and patterns during chip manufacturing.



Pharmaceuticals

Specialty chemicals used as solvents, reagents, or intermediates to create active pharmaceutical ingredients.



Military Systems

Specialty chemicals used as coatings or adhesives to ensure equipment withstands extreme conditions.



Crop Protection

Specialty chemicals used to help pesticides and fertilizers adhere to plants, increasing effectiveness and reducing unintended exposures.

What Makes Us Different

SOCMA members are ready now. We don't need permits or new construction to act. Our companies have 10–30% open capacity today in facilities that are already permitted, compliant, and operating.

Reshoring is happening—real projects are underway, and we're driving them forward.

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A Sector-Specific Approach to Trade Policy

While we are prepared to meet the growing demand for reshored production, the specialty chemical industry operates within global value chains.

SOCMA is advocating for a strategic, sector-specific approach to trade policy—one that reflects the realities of how specialty chemical manufacturers operate. Our members import foundational raw materials—often resource-intensive and unavailable at scale domestically—and transform them into specialized materials that fuel innovation across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and construction.

We share the broader goal of strengthening manufacturing capabilities in the U.S., but that ambition must be paired with practical access to global inputs that make innovation possible. That's why SOCMA is engaging directly with policymakers to ensure tariff structures are thoughtfully reviewed and that appropriate exemptions remain available where domestic alternatives don't exist.

Our aim is to help shape trade policies that bolster—not inadvertently constrain—the ability of specialty chemical producers to grow, invest, and compete on the global stage.

How We Align with the White House Vision

SOCMA's Vision 2030 aims to position the U.S. as the epicenter of specialty chemical manufacturing by the end of the decade. **This aligns directly with the Administration's goals to strengthen supply chains, advance manufacturing, and bolster economic security.**

We're not asking for handouts—we're offering immediate, high-impact solutions that can fuel economic growth, accelerate innovation, and deliver national resilience.

We support the Administration's commitment to expanding domestic energy production. Petrochemicals are the essential feedstocks for specialty chemicals—without them, innovation stalls. A strong energy sector fuels our ability to manufacture the materials that make America competitive, secure, and resilient.

Our Message

SOCMA members are here to contribute. Our stories are proof that the U.S. already has a powerful, underutilized asset in specialty manufacturing. With the right visibility and support, we can scale up quickly and be a cornerstone of America's economic and strategic future.

You won't find a more aligned, under-leveraged asset.

Our stories are compelling—we are reshore-ready, results-driven.