News Release



Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

21-D-1077 January 18, 2022

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd. (JCR) announces the following credit rating.

Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. (security code: 5110) Assignment> Shelf Registration: Preliminary A+

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<affirmation></affirmation>	
Long-term Issuer Rating:	A+
Outlook:	Stable
Bonds:	A+
CP:	J-1

Rationale

- (1) Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. (the "Company") is Japan's second largest tire manufacturer. The Company can develop and manufacture products in North America and Europe due to the dissolution of alliance agreement with U.S.-based The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company in 2015. In 2017, the Company bought out UK's major tire sales company, Micheldever Group Ltd., and DUNLOP brand business overseas. Under the new medium-term management plan, the Company strives for achieving business profit of more than 100 billion yen, D/E ratio of below 0.5x, etc. for 2025 through increasing sales and enhancing supply capacity of high performance tires worldwide, and others.
- (2) The Company has been adversely affected by stagnant auto production associated with shortage of semiconductors and price hike of raw materials; however, the performance are supported by steady sales of replacement tires and sales expansion of high-value added products, etc. Its profits have been on the downward trend since peaking out in the fiscal year ended December 2014 (FY2014) due to increased fixed costs and expenses associated with expansion of production bases overseas, but it will likely come to the end. Profitability is gradually improving in the overseas production bases due to improved productivity and sales expansion. The Company's performance is expected to be stable for the time being since sales recovery can be expected for tires for new cars along with recovery of production activities of automakers. JCR assumes that the financial structure will also likely improve gradually. Based on the above, JCR has affirmed the ratings on the Company with Stable outlook.
- (3) Business profit (IFRS) for FY2021 is expected to increase 6.0% from a year earlier to 46.0 billion yen (at the time of announcing the results for the third quarter of FY2021). Amid the stagnant auto production, the Company's performance is still solid partly because of steady sales of replacement tires, sales expansion and upward price revision of high-value added products. For recovering the medium-term profit level, JCR believes further improving the performance of the overseas production bases, for which production capacity has increased recently, and outcome of the efforts made for the high-value added products, etc. are required.
- (4) While interest-bearing debt has increased with acquisition and production capacity enhancement overseas in recent years, equity ratio remains at a relatively good level, standing at 46.2% as of the end of the third quarter of FY2021.The Company is working to increase efficiency in capital investment. The amount will roughly remain in the operating cash flow. For the inappropriate incidents relating to quality tests on fenders, and quality control for tire production occurred at an overseas subsidiary revealed in July 2021, the Company announced the preventive measures for recurrence, etc. in November 2021. JCR will keep an eye on the effectiveness of the said measures and others.

Mikiya Kubota, Akio Kamimura

Rating

Issuer: Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.



<Assignment> Shelf Registration: Preliminary A+ Maximum: JPY 50 billion Valid: two years effective from December 12, 2021

<Affirmation>

Long-term Issuer Rating: A+ Outlook: Stable

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Issue	Amount (bn)	Issue Date	Due Date	Coupon	Rating
Bonds no. 24	JPY 10	June 25, 2014	June 25, 2024	0.755%	A+
Bonds no. 25	JPY 10	June 20, 2017	June 18, 2027	0.335%	A+
CP: J-1					

Maximum: JPY 70 billion

Rating Assignment Date: January 13, 2022

The assumptions for the credit ratings and the definitions of the rating symbols are published as "Types of Credit Ratings and Definitions of Rating Symbols" (January 6, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

Outline of the rating methodology is shown as "JCR's Rating Methodology" (November 7, 2014) and "Tires" (May 8, 2014) in Information about JCR Ratings on JCR's website (https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/).

A preliminary rating is a credit rating assigned as a preliminary evaluation while material terms for issue to be rated are not yet finalized. When the issuing terms are finalized, JCR will confirm them and will assign a credit rating anew. The rating level of the final rating may be different from that of the preliminary rating, depending on the final content of the terms, etc.

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

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JCR publishes its press releases regarding the rating actions both in Japanese and in English on the same day. In case that it takes time to translate rating rationale, JCR may publicize the summary version, which will be replaced by the full translated version within three business days. (Regarding Structured Finance products, JCR only publicize the summary version in English.)



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE FORM

Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

Disclosure Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii) of Rule 17g-7

Issuer:	Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.
Rating Publication Date:	January 18,2022

The Symbol, Number, or Score in the Rating Scale used to Denote Credit Rating Categories and Notches and, the Identity of the Obligor or the Identity and a Description of the Security or Money Market Instrument as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(A) of Rule 17g-7

- Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.
- $2 \quad \begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|} The version of the procedure or methodology used to determine the credit rating; as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(B) of Rule 17g-7 \end{tabular}$
 - Please see the news release. If the credit rating is a private rating, please see the report for private rating.
- 3 The Main Assumptions and Principles used in Constructing the Procedures and Methodologies used to Determine the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(C) of Rule 17g-7
 - The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, to be applied to assess the likelihood of a given debt payment in light of its issuer's condition and business environment, etc. in the relevant future. There is certain limitation, however, in the time horizon that the rating foresees.
 - The credit rating methodology assumes, in principle, that the factors posted in the below are particularly important for such likelihood to be determined, and that the rating determination is made by evaluating each of them not only quantitatively but also employing qualitative analyses.
 - A) Business Bases

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The likelihood of a given debt payment is highly conditional to its issuer's business bases - how they can be maintained/ expanded into the future and thereby secure earnings and cash flows in adequacy and in a sustainable way.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the degree of the issuer's indebtedness and loss absorption capacity in terms of equity capital. Also notable is that a financial institution might see a significant loss of financial grounds as a result of changes in value of the assets under its possession.

C) Liquidity Positions

The likelihood of debt payment is highly dependent on the adequacy of the issuer's cash and other sources of repayment (liquidity positions).

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The likelihood of debt payment is affected one way or the other by the issuer's related parties such as parent company, subsidiary, guarantor, and the government of the issuer's business domicile, etc. - by their own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer.

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E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment

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The likelihood of debt payment can be different between given debts of the same issuer. The likelihood of debt payment for an individual debt is dependent on the issuer's discretion, and/ or its rank relative to other debts of the same issuer in the order of seniority in principal/ interest payment which is determined by design as financial product or by laws, etc.

- The Potential Limitations of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(D) of Rule 17g-7
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- The objective of the credit rating herewith presented does not include any concerns other than the likelihood of debt payment, such as risks of price changes, market liquidity, etc.
- The credit rating herewith presented is necessary to be reviewed along with possible changes of the issuer of rated objects in its business performance and/ or circumstances which include regulatory environment, and hence subject to possible alteration.
- 5 Information on the Uncertainty of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(E) of Rule 17g-7

The information used for the determination of credit rating as herewith presented is obtained by JCR from the issuer of rated objects and other sources that JCR trusts in terms of accuracy and reliability but possibly contains errors due to human, non-human or other causes. Consequently, the credit rating determined on the grounds of such information does not constitute, explicitly or implicitly, any representation or warrant of JCR on the information itself or any consequences of its use in terms of accuracy, relevance, timeliness, wholeness, market value, or usefulness for any specific purposes.

- 6 Use of Due Diligence Services of a Third Party in Taking the Rating Action as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(F) of Rule 17g-7
 - There is no use of any third-party due diligence service in the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
- 7 Use of Servicer or Remittance Reports to Conduct Surveillance of the Credit Rating Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(G) of Rule 17g-7
 - There is no use of any servicer or remittance report to conduct surveillance of the credit rating herewith presented.
- 8 The Types of Data Relied Upon for the Purpose of Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(H) of Rule17g-7



- The information posted in the below, which includes data, is used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented.
 - A) Audited financial statements presented by the rating stakeholders
 - B) Explanations of business performance, management plans, etc. presented by the rating stakeholders
 - C) Documentation of the rated financial product presented by the rating stakeholders

Overall assessment of the Quality of Information Available and Considered in Determining the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(l) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR holds its basic policies for securing the quality of information as a base of due diligence for the determination of credit ratings. The information used as a base for the determination of credit rating herewith presented satisfies such policies, which include the audit by an independent auditor, the warranty made by the issuer, the publication by the issuer, some independent media or, otherwise, JCR analyst's scrutiny, etc.
- JCR sees no particular weakness in the quality of information used for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented as compared to the information used in other cases of the credit rating for comparable issuers or ratable objects.
- If the credit rating is an Indication, please see the report for Indication.

10 Information Relating to Conflicts of Interest as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(J) of Rule 17g-7

- JCR receives payment of compensation for the determination of the credit rating herewith presented from either one of those parties who are issuer, underwriter, depositor or sponsor.
- JCR received in the last fiscal year in the past payment of compensation from the same party for any kind of JCR's service other than the determination of public or private credit rating, such as one in the ancillary business.

$11 \begin{bmatrix} \text{Explanation or Measure of the Potential Volatility of the Credit Rating as Required by Paragraph} \\ \textbf{(a)(1)(ii)(K) of Rule 17g-7} \end{bmatrix}$

A) Business Bases

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The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases, since its revenue, etc. may improve or deteriorate by the change in its business management policies, clients' preferences, competitive situation, or a technological innovation. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the business bases is large.

B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating is subject to alteration if the issuer increases/ decreases its debt/ capital or vice versa and thereby makes its individual debt payment liability less or more bearable and its loss absorption capacity into the future decreased or increased. Also, the changes in the quality of asset under the issuer's holding may affect the credit rating, since such changes could raise or lower the likelihood of future loss of the issuer's financial grounds. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change in the financial grounds and/ or asset quality is large.

C) Liquidity Positions

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's financial management policy or in the relations with fund procurement sources and the change thereby makes its liquidity



positions improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

D) Related Parties' Status and Stance of Support/ Assistance for the Issuer

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the issuer's parent company or subsidiary, guarantor or other provider of credit enhancement, or the government of the issuer's business domicile, or other related parties' own conditions and/ or position of support/ assistance for the issuer, and the change thereby makes its business bases, financial grounds and/ or liquidity positions improve or deteriorate, and/ or making the effectiveness of guarantee and other credit enhancement improve or deteriorate. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large.

E) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a change in the rated debt's status in the order of seniority relative to other debts caused by the improvement/ deterioration of the issuer's financial condition. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is large. Also, in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, the credit rating is subject to alteration if and when the likelihood of such non-payment is projected to increase or decrease. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

F) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating is subject to alteration if there is a rise/ fall in the general economy and/ or the markets inducing the issuer's revenues/ expenses to increase/ decrease and vice versa, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating is usually by a notch, with possibility of a few notches if and when the change is exceptionally large.

G) Various Events

The credit rating is subject to alteration on occurrence of various events, such as change in the issuer's major shareholders, M&A and other organizational change, accident, violation of the law, litigation, legal/ regulatory change, natural disaster, etc., which are unforeseeable at the time when the credit rating is determined, causing a significant change on the issuer's business bases, financial grounds, etc. The resultant alteration of the credit rating could be by a notch but more often than not as much as a few notches.

Information on the Content of the Credit Rating, Including the Historical Performance of the Credit Rating and the Expected Probability of Default and the Expected Loss in the Event of Default as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(L) of Rule 17g-7

- Historical records of the credit rating herewith presented are posted in the end of this paper.
- The credit rating herewith presented by JCR is its summary opinion with regard to the likelihood of given debt payment and hence not necessarily a perfect representation of such likelihood. The credit rating is not intended to estimate the probability of default or the loss on given default, either.
- Facts of the probability of default are posted as Form NRSRO Exhibit 1 on the JCR website under the URL:

https://www.jcr.co.jp/en/service/company/regu/nrsro/

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Information on the Sensitivity of the Credit Rating to Assumptions Made as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(M) of Rule 17g-7

A) Business Bases

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's business bases and powers of earning or cash flow generation, etc. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's business bases on some drastic change in the operational environments, etc.



B) Financial Grounds and Asset Quality

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's financial grounds and asset quality. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's financial grounds and/ or asset quality on some drastic change in its business bases.

C) Liquidity Risks

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the issuer's liquidity positions. The resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch, as JCR speculates, but possibly as much as a few notches if the development is rapid in improvement or deterioration of the issuer's liquidity positions on some drastic change in its financial management policy or relations with fund procurement sources, etc.

D) Order of Seniority in Debt Payment and Non-Payment Forgiven by Contract

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the order of seniority in repayment of interests and principal. JCR assumes the resultant change of the credit rating is most likely by a notch. The change could be as much as a few notches if the issuer's financial structure differs so much and thereby the balance between debts shifted so greatly. Rating change is also possible in case of the financial products for which non-payment of interest/ principal is contractually permissible, if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turns out to be inaccurate. The change of the credit rating is assumed to be by a notch but often as much as a few notches.

E) Rise and Fall in General Economy and Markets

The credit rating herewith presented could be changed if and when the assumptions made at the time of its determination turn out to be inaccurate with regard to the prospects of general economy and markets. JCR expects the change should be most likely by a notch but could be as much as a few notches, should the economy or the markets change so greatly.

14 Information on the Representations, Warranties, and Enforcement Mechanisms of an Assetbacked Security as Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(ii)(N) of rule 17g-7

The credit rating herewith presented is not for an ABS product, and hence no relevant issue.

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The Historical Performance of the Credit Rating

Issuer Name	Issue Name	Publication Date	Rating	Outlook/Direction
	Issuer(Long-term)	July 31, 2006	A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Etd.	Issuer(Long-term)	July 30, 2007	A+ A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	June 12, 2008	A+ A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Etd.	Issuer(Long-term)	June 10, 2009	A+ A+	Negative
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Etd.	Issuer(Long-term)	July 15, 2010	A+ A+	Stable
	Issuer(Long-term)	June 7, 2011	A+ A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.		June 29, 2012	A+ A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term) Issuer(Long-term)	July 3, 2012		Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	June 10, 2014	A+ A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 14, 2015	A+ A+	Positive
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.		December 27, 2016	A+ AA-	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)			Stable
	Issuer(Long-term)	January 22, 2018	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 26, 2018	AA-	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 26, 2019	AA-	Negative
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	Issuer(Long-term)	December 7, 2020	A+	Stable
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 1, 1993	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	February 25, 1994	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd. Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP CP	August 8, 1995 March 8, 1996	J-1 J-1	
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Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 16, 1997	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 16, 1998	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	February 3, 1999	#J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 28, 1999	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 14, 2000	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 29, 2001	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 10, 2002	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 19, 2003	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 24, 2004	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 14, 2005	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 31, 2006	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 30, 2007	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 12, 2008	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 10, 2009	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 15, 2010	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 7, 2011	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 29, 2012	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	July 3, 2013	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 10, 2014	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	December 14, 2015	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	December 27, 2016	J-1+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	June 23, 2017	J-1+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	January 22, 2018	J-1+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	December 26, 2018	J-1+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	CP	December 26, 2019	J-1+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	СР	December 7, 2020	J-1	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	June 18, 2014	A+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	December 14, 2015	A+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	December 27, 2016	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	January 22, 2018	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	December 26, 2018	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	December 26, 2019	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.24	December 7, 2020	A+	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.25	June 13, 2017	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.25	January 22, 2018	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.25	December 26, 2018	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.25	December 26, 2019	AA-	
Sumitomo Rubber Industries, Ltd.	bonds no.25	December 7, 2020	A+	

Attestation Required by Paragraph (a)(1)(iii) of Rule 17g-7

I, Mikiya Kubota, have responsibility to this Rating Action and to the best of my knowledge:

- A) No part of the credit rating was influenced by any other business activities.
- B) The credit rating was based solely upon the merits of the obligor, security, or money market instrument being rated.
- C) The credit rating was an independent evaluation of the credit risk of the obligor, security, or money market instrument.

窪田幹也

Mikiya Kubota General Manager of Corporate Rating Department I

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