

Buckman Laboratories (India) Private Limited

October 08, 2025

Facilities/Instruments	Amount (₹ crore)	Rating ¹	Rating Action
Long-term / short-term bank facilities	12.00	CARE BBB; Stable / CARE A3+	Downgraded from CARE BBB+; Negative / CARE A2

Details of instruments/facilities in Annexure-1.

Rationale and key rating drivers

Revision in ratings assigned to Buckman Laboratories (India) Private Limited (BLI) factors in moderation in profitability margins from the earlier levels driven by higher expenses including payouts to group entities and professional fee payments. Ratings also factor in concentration of revenue with leather industry, which is facing significant headwinds with the recent imposition of reciprocal tariff from the US.

Ratings assigned to BLI continue to derive comfort from the long operational track record of the Buckman group and a robust distribution network across India. The company maintains comfortable gearing and debt coverage indicators. However, ratings are constrained by factors such as its moderate scale of operations, deterioration in profitability from earlier levels, its presence in a competitive and fragmented industry, and a notable reliance on imports and exposure to forex fluctuations.

Rating sensitivities: Factors likely to lead to rating actions

Positive factors

- Steady increase in scale of operations with total operating income (TOI) over ₹150 crore.

Negative factors

- Deteriorating profit before interest, lease rentals, depreciation, and taxation (PBILDT) margin to below 3%.
- Significant expansion in its operating cycle.

Analytical approach: Standalone

Outlook: Stable

The stable outlook reflects that the company will continue to benefit from its comfortable liquidity position and a well-established operational track record.

Detailed description of key rating drivers:

Key strengths

Long and well-established operational track record of the Buckman group

BLI operates as a part of the Buckman group, a global entity with a presence in over 90 countries and 10 manufacturing sites. BLI is a closely held private limited company, with 99.99% ownership by Bulab Holdings Inc., the controlling entity for all Buckman's affiliated businesses worldwide. The remaining 0.01% ownership belongs to Buckman Laboratories, Singapore (BLSg). Over time, the group continually developed numerous chemicals, amassing ~4,000 patents across diverse sectors, including paper technologies, leather technology, water technologies, ethanol production, oil and gas, power and utilities, and performance chemicals. In July 2025, Buckman USA was acquired by Pritzker Private Capital (PPC), a US-based investment firm. Recently, Pritzker Private Capital (PPC) acquired Buckman Inc. through its investment in Bulab Holdings Inc. This transaction reflects a change in ownership at the holding company level, while Buckman continues to operate under its existing leadership and structure. In August 2025, BLI announced a joint venture (JV) with Atul Limited to manufacture, market, and deliver advanced water treatment solutions in India and Sri Lanka.

Well-established distributor network across India with reputed customer base

BLI maintains a diverse product line serving across industries through a network of distributors. BLI collaborates with a major distributor for the paper and pulp industry, 13 leather industry distributors in places, including Kanpur, Jalandhar, Kolkata, Chennai, and three distributors for water-treatment chemicals. With over 15 years in the business, BLI has cultivated strong customer relationships, resulting in a substantial number of repeat orders. The company stations its personnel at client locations to ensure timely service.

¹Complete definition of ratings assigned are available at www.careratings.com and other CARE Ratings Limited's publications.

Comfortable gearing and debt coverage indicators

BLI's debt requirements have consistently remained quite low. As on December 31, 2024, the company maintained zero overall gearing and its credit lines remained unutilised for the year ended December 31, 2024.

Key weaknesses

Decline in profitability from earlier levels

The current operating margins remain below the PBILDT margins of 9%–13% recorded in CY21–CY22, despite improving from 1.75% in CY23 to 4.75% in CY24. BLI incurs significant expenses on trademark fees, patent fees, marketing costs, and knowledge transfer charges payable to its parent and group entities, which increased from 7.52% of TOI in CY22 to 10.83% in CY24. Professional fees also rose from 7.60% of TOI in CY23 to 14.15% in CY24. BLI mainly operates in leather chemicals (58% of TOI) and paper and pulp chemicals (28% of TOI), and recent US tariffs may affect end-user industries, which could in turn impact BLI's operating margins and scale of operations.

Competitive industry

Specialty chemicals represent ~20% of India's overall chemicals and petrochemicals market. These chemicals have diverse applications in consumer products (such as personal care chemicals), industrial processes (such as water treatment chemicals), and infrastructure development (including construction chemicals). Growth of the Indian economy fuels demand for specialty chemicals across these segments. Specialty chemical providers typically serve specific customer niches, offering continuous and inventive technical solutions. Despite its global presence, BLI operates on a moderate scale in India. It competes with prominent international players and local firms.

Dependence on imports and exposure to FOREX fluctuations

BLI exhibits significant reliance on imports, with ~30% of its total purchases in CY24 originating from international sources and margins are susceptible to forex fluctuations. Imports are predominantly from its group concerns. In CY22, imports constituted ~43% of the total purchases, indicating a shift towards sourcing domestically from other players.

Liquidity: Adequate

BLI's liquidity profile is adequate with sufficient cash accruals against Nil repayment obligations. The company's operating cycle stood at 88 days as on December 31, 2024. The company enjoys a credit period of ~90 days for purchases from group entities and a 60-day credit period for purchases from other vendors. In the 12-months ending August 2025, the company has not utilised the working capital facility of ₹12.00 crore and met requirements with its own cash accruals. The company's free cash and bank balance was ₹18.40 crore as on December 31, 2024.

Applicable criteria

[Definition of Default](#)

[Liquidity Analysis of Non-financial sector entities](#)

[Rating Outlook and Rating Watch](#)

[Wholesale Trading](#)

[Financial Ratios – Non financial Sector](#)

[Short Term Instruments](#)

About the company and industry

Industry classification

Macroeconomic indicator	Sector	Industry	Basic industry
Commodities	Chemicals	Chemicals and petrochemicals	Commodity chemicals

Established in 2005, BLI is an integral part of the Buckman group based in the US. Founded by Dr. Stanley J. Buckman in 1945, the Buckman group specialises in manufacturing specialty chemicals across sectors, including pulp and paper, leather, industrial water treatment, and process chemistry. In July 2025, Buckman Inc., US acquired by Pritzker Private Capital (PPC), a US-based investment firm, focused on middle-market companies in North America. Junai Maharaj continues to be President and CEO of global operations and Rahul Dharmadhikary as Asia-pacific president. BLI imports chemicals from affiliated group companies in Singapore, South Africa, and the US, and domestically and distributes to manufacturers in the paper and leather sectors.

Brief Financials (₹ crore)	December 31, 2022 (A)	December 31, 2023 (A)	December 31, 2024 (A)
Total operating income	88.33	78.26	92.38
PBILDIT	8.02	1.38	4.39
PAT	5.88	1.15	3.26
Overall gearing (times)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest coverage (times)	141.38	31.89	65.49

A: Audited; Note: these are latest available financial results

Status of non-cooperation with previous CRA: Not applicable

Any other information: Not applicable

Rating history for last three years: Annexure-2

Detailed explanation of covenants of rated instrument / facility: Annexure-3

Complexity level of instruments rated: Annexure-4

Lender details: Annexure-5

Annexure-1: Details of instruments/facilities

Name of the Instrument	ISIN	Date of Issuance (DD-MM-YYYY)	Coupon Rate (%)	Maturity Date (DD-MM-YYYY)	Size of the Issue (₹ crore)	Rating Assigned and Rating Outlook
Fund-based - LT/ ST-Working Capital Limits		-	-	-	12.00	CARE BBB; Stable / CARE A3+

Annexure-2: Rating history for last three years

Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument/Bank Facilities	Current Ratings			Rating History			
		Type	Amount Outstanding (₹ crore)	Rating	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2025-2026	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2024-2025	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2023-2024	Date(s) and Rating(s) assigned in 2022-2023
1	Fund-based - LT/ ST-Working Capital Limits	LT/ST	12.00	CARE BBB; Stable / CARE A3+	-	1)CARE BBB+; Negative / CARE A2 (24-Sep-24)	1)CARE BBB+; Stable / CARE A2 (28-Sep-23)	1)CARE BBB+; Stable / CARE A2 (06-Dec-22)

LT/ST: Long term/Short term

Annexure-3: Detailed explanation of covenants of rated instruments/facilities: Not applicable

Annexure-4: Complexity level of instruments rated

Sr. No.	Name of the Instrument	Complexity Level
1	Fund-based - LT/ ST-Working Capital Limits	Simple

Annexure-5: Lender details

To view lender-wise details of bank facilities please [click here](#)

Note on complexity levels of rated instruments: CareEdge Ratings has classified instruments rated by it based on complexity. Investors/market intermediaries/regulators or others are welcome to write to care@careedge.in for clarifications.

Contact Us

<p>Media Contact</p> <p>Mradul Mishra Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-22 6754 3596 E-mail: mradul.mishra@careedge.in</p> <p>Relationship Contact</p> <p>Ankur Sachdeva Senior Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-22 6754 3444 E-mail: Ankur.sachdeva@careedge.in</p>	<p>Analytical Contacts</p> <p>Sandeep P Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-44 2850 1002 E-mail: sandeep.prem@careedge.in</p> <p>Ali Monish P E Assistant Director CARE Ratings Limited Phone: +91-44 2850 1021 E-mail: alimonish.p@careedge.in</p> <p>Nitish Kumar Mahto Analyst CARE Ratings Limited E-mail: Nitish.kumar@careedge.in</p>
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