

LMHC Information Sheet # 13

Hydrophane Opal

- **Definition**
- **Report wording**

Members of the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee (LMHC) have standardised the nomenclature that they use to describe hydrophane opal.

Definition

Hydrophane opal is opal that will absorb liquids to the point of affecting the appearance and potentially the weight of the gemstone. Most opals have a porous structure to some extent, but when this porosity is considerable the term hydrophane may apply. Such opals could come from any opal locality, but opals from deposits in Ethiopia produce an unusually high percentage of such gemstones.

Report wording

Hydrophane opal shall be described as,

Identification:

Species: **(natural)¹ opal**

Variety: **(hydrophane)¹ (opal)²**

Further information

(may be called hydrophane opal in the trade)¹

(Due to its natural porosity, this gemstone may absorb liquids and as a result its weight and appearance may change.)¹

¹ Wording and text in parentheses is optional.

² If 'hydrophane' is not used in the 'variety' section, the word 'opal' shall be used.