

LMHC Information Sheet # 4

Corundum

- Padparadscha sapphire definition
- Padparadscha sapphire report wording

Members of the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee (LMHC) have standardised the nomenclature that they use to describe a 'padparadscha sapphire'.

Definition

Padparadscha sapphire is a variety of corundum from any geographical origin whose overall colour appearance is a **subtle mixture of pinkish orange to orangey pink with pastel tones and low to medium saturation when viewed in standard daylight (in the range between D50, 5000 K to D65, 6500 K), preferably with a Colour Rendering Index (CRI) of 95 or higher.**

For any corundum of padparadscha-like colour, a colour stability test is mandatory. For the harmonized stability test, see information sheet No. 16.

The name 'padparadscha sapphire' **shall not** be applied in the following cases:

- If the stone has any colour modifier other than pink or orange, even when induced by scattering effects on tiny inclusions (turbidity)
- If the stone has major uneven colour distribution when viewed with the unaided eye and table up +/- 30°
- The presence of yellow or orange epigenetic material in fissure(s) affecting the overall colour of the stone
- If the stone has been treated as described in Information Sheets #2 and #3
- If the stone has been treated by irradiation
- If the colour of the stone is not stable and shifting out of the padparadscha colour range (e.g. shifting to pink) by a colour stability test
- If the stone has been dyed, coated, painted, varnished or sputtered.

Report wording

Any corundum that falls within the above definition shall be described as,

Identification:

Species: **(natural)¹ corundum**
Variety: **padparadscha (sapphire)¹**

Note: All terminology applied to corundum and set forth in Information Sheet #1 shall also be applied to 'padparadscha sapphire'. The name 'padparadscha sapphire' shall be applied to both unheated and heated 'padparadscha sapphire'.

In case the colour of a padparadscha is shifting during the colour stability test but remains always within the padparadscha range: A sentence may be added in the comments section addressing this shifting property (e.g. mentioning reversible photochromism and/or tenebrescence).

In case the colour is shifting out of the padparadscha range after colour stability testing (to pink), the name padparadscha cannot be applied. Instead the stone is identified either as pink sapphire or fancy sapphire, with as an option a comment about this colour instability (e.g. mentioning reversible photochromism and/or tenebrescence).

¹ Wording in parenthesis is optional.



Examples of padparadscha sapphires. This photo is only for illustration purposes to show the possible colour range from pinkish orange (left) to orangey pink (right) and the low to medium saturation of this variety of corundum. Depending on the colour calibration of the printer or screen, the colours of the stones on this photo may vary and therefore not reflect the original colours of these padparadscha sapphires.

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