

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 colour is a **subtle mixture of pinkish orange to orangey pink with pastel tones and low to medium saturation when viewed in standard daylight**.

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 splattered.

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).

¹ wording in parenthesis is optional.