

## LMHC Information Sheet # 10

### Amber and Copal

- **Heating with pressure**
- **Heating without pressure**

Members of the Laboratory Manual Harmonisation Committee (LMHC) have standardised the nomenclature that they use to describe amber and copal with indications of heating. This nomenclature is used for all resins that derive from natural fossilized resin (amber) and/or sub-fossilized resin (copal), showing indications of heating with or without pressure, with exception of dyed material.

**Note:** the colour of amber and copal may naturally alter over time.

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#### Heating with pressure

**Green and yellow-brown resin of a natural origin (amber and/or copal):** Natural fossilized resin (amber) and sub-fossilized resin (copal) are both used to form green treated natural resin by heat and pressure with a multiple step process. Such material shows modified physical properties which may prohibit the identification of the starting material, and shall be described as,

Identification:

Material: **Amber/Copal or Natural Resin**  
(Species): **(Amber) or (Copal)<sup>1</sup>**

Further information: **Indications of heating, this resin has been processed by heat and pressure<sup>2</sup>**  
or  
**Indications of heating, this resin has been processed by heat and pressure and may have been derived from copal<sup>3</sup>.**

#### Heating without pressure

**Yellow-Brown resin of a natural origin (amber/copal):** Fossilized resin (amber) or sub-fossilized resin (copal) which has only been heated, shall be described as,

Identification:

Species: **Amber or Copal**

Further information: **Indications of heating.**

<sup>1</sup> Specify the appropriate species

<sup>2</sup> Only use if the infrared spectrum shows the Baltic shoulder (1150-1250 cm<sup>-1</sup>)

<sup>3</sup> Only use if the infrared spectrum does not show the Baltic shoulder (1150-1250 cm<sup>-1</sup>)