

IMA-Europe's position on calcined minerals

- July 2008 -

IMA-Europe holds the position that calcined minerals are exempted from the obligation to register in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 7b and Annex V.7 of the Regulation (EC) 1907/2006.

The rationale to support this view is presented here-below.

I. Definitions given in Article 3 of the REACH Regulation (EC) 1907/2006

(39) Substances which occur in nature means a naturally occurring substance as such, unprocessed or processed only by manual, mechanical or gravitational means; by dissolution in water, by flotation, by extraction with water, by steam distillation or by heating solely to remove water, or which is extracted from air by any means.

(40) Not chemically modified substance means a substance whose chemical structure remains unchanged, even if it has undergone a chemical process or treatment, or a physical mineralogical transformation, for instance to remove impurities

II. Description of a calcined mineral

For this paper, calcination (excluding the primary mineral decarbonation¹) means a thermal treatment process in which a solid is heated to a temperature below its melting point to effect a phase transition or to remove water and/or impurities naturally present in the raw mineral.

A calcined mineral results from a thermal treatment process of the mineral to bring it in a phase transition or to remove water and/or natural impurities.

III. Interpretation of the above definitions to calcined minerals

A mineral which has undergone a calcination process is considered as a not chemically modified substance, if the thermal process results, alone or in combination:

- in the removal of impurities,
- in the removal of water,
- in a physical mineralogical transformation (e.g. phase transition),

A naturally occurring mineral which is not chemically modified is exempted from registration and evaluation according to Article 2, paragraph 7b of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006.

¹ Decarbonation is the removal of CO₂ from carbonate minerals.