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 decarbonation\(^1\)) 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.

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\(^{1}\) Decarbonation is the removal of CO\(_2\) from carbonate minerals.