



International Amber Association

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Regulations of the Amber Laboratory of the International Amber Association

§1. Scope of the Regulations.

These regulations apply to all clients of the Amber Laboratory of the International Amber Association (IAA) offering services in the examination and identification of amber, fossil resins, and imitations (counterfeits) of these substances.

§2.

Scope of Services.

A. The IAA Amber Laboratory performs the following services:

- Examination and identification of Baltic amber (raw material, semi-finished products, finished products - jewelry, utility items, sculptures, historical objects, art objects, identification of inclusions)
- Examination and identification of other fossil and subfossil resins
- Examination and identification of imitations and counterfeits of Baltic amber

B. The identification of an object made of Baltic amber is based on the accumulated knowledge, experience of IAA Appraisers, and the IAA Classification of Baltic Amber Gemstones. (Appendix)

C. The identification of inclusions is based on paleontological analysis.

D. The identification of other fossil and subfossil resins, imitations, and counterfeits of Baltic amber is based on the available knowledge of IAA appraisers.

E. The IAA Amber Laboratory does not undertake to determine the age of the object. In the case of historical or archaeological objects, the Appraiser may determine the approximate time of origin.

F. The examination and identification of the object is documented.

G. The IAA does not perform the identification of metals and gemstones other than those listed above.

§3. Conditions for Order Fulfillment.

A. Acceptance of items for examination takes place at the IAA headquarters in Gdańsk, at 1 Warzywnicza Street. Items can be delivered in person or sent by mail.

B. The client is obliged to provide their name, company name, billing information, and the insurance value of the item. This information is stored in IAA's resources and is not shared with third parties.

C. The deadline for order fulfilment and the method of delivery/shipping of the item are agreed upon.

D. Each examined item receives a unique number, which is the next sequential inventory number.

E. Items are stored at the IAA headquarters with appropriate security measures.



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F. If it is necessary to take a sample, the client must give their consent.

G. If it is necessary to conduct research beyond the capabilities of the IAA Amber Laboratory, the client agrees to have the research conducted outside the IAA headquarters and to transport the items between facilities.

H. The IAA reserves the right to use the results of the research, descriptions, photographs, and data collected during the order fulfilment in IAA publications and materials without disclosing the client's information (unless the client decides otherwise).

§4. Examination Methods.

A. Objects are examined using non-destructive gemmological methods. If it is necessary to take a sample or use destructive methods, the client must give their consent.

B. Objects are examined under UV/VIS light, magnification, FTIR spectroscopy, and, if necessary, using appropriate solvents.

§5. Persons Authorized to Conduct Examinations and Issue Documents.

Persons authorized to conduct examinations are IAA Appraisers working in the IAA Amber Laboratory or other IAA Appraisers designated by the Laboratory Head. The type of object being examined and the scope of identification should be consistent with the scope of the IAA Appraiser's authority:

- a. Appraiser in amber raw material*
- b. Appraiser in amber natural specimens*
- c. Appraiser in amber semi-finished products and finished products*
- d. Appraiser in amber antiques and works of art*
- e. Appraiser in amber inclusions*

§6. Duration of the Order.

The IAA declares the duration of an order carried out under standard conditions to be 2-5 working days. If it is necessary to extend the deadline, the IAA will inform the client via the specified phone number or email address and agree on a new deadline for completing the order.

§7. Documents Confirming the Examination and Identification of the Object.

A. The IAA undertakes to provide the client with an examination document certifying the performance of the examination and the interpretation of the results.

B. Each issued document has a unique number assigned to the object. The IAA issues documents confirming the examination for batches of products, based on agreements with the client and the laboratory.

C. It is possible to issue a duplicate (the document will have the word "DUPLICATE" printed on it).



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D. Generated documents are stored in electronic form in IAA's resources.

E. The client receives the original document with a hologram. The signatures of IAA Appraisers on the document may be printed.

F. Photographs of the object are taken in the IAA Amber Laboratory under artificial lighting, and the color of the object may differ from the photographed object.

G. Three types of documents are available: Certificate (Certificate of Amber Identification/Certificate of Origin) and Examination Report.

CERTIFICATE (CERTIFICATE OF AMBER IDENTIFICATION).

A document in the form of a plastic card issued for objects made of Baltic amber or other natural resins. The front side is fixed and unchanged, containing IAA data and a QR code directing to the certificate search engine in the online database. The back side contains:

- Unique number of the examined object
- Weight with an accuracy of 0.01 g (up to 2000 g)
- Description (type, color, transparency)
- Photograph
- Place and date of the examination
- Conclusion and comment by the IAA Appraiser with their signature
- Printed in English

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN.

A document in the form of a plastic card exclusively for products made of Baltic amber. The front side is fixed and unchanged, containing IAA data and a QR code directing to the certificate search engine in the online database. The back side contains:

- Unique number of the examined object
- Weight with an accuracy of 0.01 g (up to 2000 g)
- Description (type, color, transparency)
- Photograph
- Place and date of the examination
- Place of origin and name of the mine or company
- Conclusion and comment by the IAA Appraiser with their signature



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- Printed in English

EXAMINATION REPORT.

A document in A4 format, in Polish and/or English (version agreed upon with the Client). The document is issued for all examined products, including imitations of Baltic amber, and contains:

- Unique product number
- Weight with an accuracy of 0.01 g (up to 2000 g)
- Description (type, color, transparency)
- Photograph
- Place and date of the examination
- Conclusion and comment by the IAA Appraiser with their signature
- Examination methods used during the analysis
- Additional information necessary to justify the identification
- Image of the spectrum recorded for the object

§8. Conclusion of the Examination

Depending on the result of the identification analysis, the following information is provided:

- Baltic amber - Typical properties for Baltic amber (succinite)
- Dominican amber - Typical properties for Dominican amber
- Mexican amber - Typical properties for Mexican amber
- Burmese amber - Typical properties for Myanmar amber (burmite)
- Resins from the region of Indonesia, Ethiopia, etc. -
- Subfossil resins - Typical properties for copal resin. If the Appraiser can identify the type, information is added from the ... region
- Synthetic resins - Typical properties for synthetic resin. If the Appraiser can identify the type, information is added from the ... group

§9. Comment on the Examination Result

According to the Baltic Amber Classification According to the IAA Classification of Baltic Amber



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Gemstones, the Appraiser provides a comment containing one of the following entries: Natural - given only for products subjected to mechanical processing, the entry NATURAL is used. In the case of multi-element products, if one of the amber elements shows signs of processing other than mechanical, the product is classified as modified or reconstructed. In exceptional cases, it may be described as natural/modified.

Additional information:

- Filling cavities - entry FILLED CAVITY
- Surface coating, e.g., with varnish (if it is possible to identify the material under the coating) - entry COATED
- In exceptional cases, synonymous terms proposed by CIBJO may be used.
- The comment provides information on the identification of inclusions, along with information about the Appraiser. The name of the inclusion is given in Latin, with the accuracy, if possible, to the genus.
- The IAA does not provide the method and conditions of modification.

§10. Price List and Payment Terms

A. The price list of services is publicly available and published on the website www.amber.org.pl, approved by the IAA Board.

B. The cost of the service applies to 1 piece of product/object and depends on:

- The scope of services, which includes:
 - Identification of the material
 - Disclosure of modifications/reconstructions according to the IAA Classification
- Type of products to be examined
 - Raw material, semi-finished products, finished products up to 10 elements
 - Value of the object/objects
 - Finished products (single or multi-element)
 - Inclusions
- Number of ordered examinations

C. The client is informed about the unit cost of the examination when placing the order.

D. Invoices for services are issued each time after accepting the order and should be



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paid by the client within 30 days of the invoice date. Payment can be made by bank transfer/credit card or cash.

E. Standard transportation costs with insurance (at the client's request) from the IAA headquarters to the client and any other additional transportation fees, such as customs clearance costs, are added to the invoice.

F. The IAA reserves the right to demand payment for the service before issuing the document confirming the examination and returning the products.

G. Each new client is asked to pay before the start of the order.

§11. Transportation and Insurance

A. All products can be delivered to the IAA Laboratory by post, courier, or in person.

B. Products should be insured by the client during transportation. The client is responsible for the materials transported.

C. The client bears the costs of customs clearance and other additional transportation fees and taxes.

D. The IAA is not liable for damage or loss resulting from the transportation of products. The package can be additionally insured at the client's request. The cost of insurance is borne by the client.

E. In the absence of contact with the client enabling the collection or transportation of the material ordered for examination, or if the object and document are not collected for at least 6 months, the object and document become the property of the IAA (IAA Amber and Imitation Collection) and can be disposed of by the IAA.

§12. Verification of the Authenticity of the Issued Document

A. The online search engine on the website www.amber.org.pl allows verification of the authenticity of the document issued by the IAA.

B. Each issued document is entered into an online database.

C. The IAA Laboratory is not responsible for the incorrect display of the database in certain areas of the world.

D. The IAA Laboratory reserves the right to remove data from the search engine or modify the entry if the invoice has not been paid.

§13. Complaints

Client complaints regarding the service must be submitted in writing. The IAA Laboratory reserves the right to respond in writing within 30 days or additional time if the client provides additional explanations.

§14. Liability

A. The IAA Laboratory is not liable to the client or any other person if:



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- Services or products are not used as intended
- The examination document prepared by the IAA Laboratory has been modified outside the laboratory. B. The IAA Laboratory is liable for entrusted products up to the value of the insurance coverage. C. The IAA Laboratory is not liable for lost profits.

§15. Final Provisions

A. The IAA Laboratory declares that these regulations may be subject to changes and modifications. B. The court of jurisdiction for disputes between the IAA Laboratory and the client is the District Court in Gdańsk. C. These regulations are introduced and may be amended by a resolution of the Association's Board.

The last changes to the regulations were made by the resolution of the General Meeting of the IAA members on June 20th, 2024.