

Specification for Seedlac

Confirmed
February 2011

Co-operating organizations

The Pigments, Paints and Varnishes Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

- Admiralty
- Air Ministry
- Association of British Chemical Manufacturers
- Board of Trade*
- British Colour Makers' Association
- British Railways, The British Transport Commission
- Building Industry Distributors
- Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations
- D.S.I.R. — Building Research Station
- D.S.I.R. — Laboratory of the Government Chemist*
- Incorporated Institute of British Decorators
- Lead Oxide Convention
- London County Council
- Ministry of Aviation*
- Ministry of Works
- National Paint Federation
- Oil and Colour Chemists' Association*
- Paint Manufacturers' and Allied Trades Association
- Post Office
- Research Association of British Paint, Colour and Varnish Manufacturers
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Society of British Paint Manufacturers Ltd.*
- Titanium Pigment Manufacturers' Technical Committee
- White Lead Convention
- Zinc Development Association
- Zinc Pigment Development Association

The Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the Committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

- British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association
- British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association
- British Hat and Allied Feltmakers Research Association
- London Chamber of Commerce, Incorp.
- London Shellac Trade Association
- Society for Analytical Chemistry
- Tropical Products Institute
- Individual manufacturers

This British Standard, having been approved by the Pigments, Paints and Varnishes Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Chemical Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 31 October 1960

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
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Amendments issued since publication

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Foreword

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards:
BS 410, *Test sieves*.
BS 1957, *Presentation of numerical values (fineness of expression; rounding of numbers)*.

During recent years, lac has been studied internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), by various Research Institutions and Trade Organizations in different parts of the world.
It has been decided to split the subject matter of BS 954, the previous British Standard for all types of lac other than bleached lac, into three parts, covering seedlac, hand-made shellac and machine-made shellac, and to publish these as separate documents. Advantage has been taken of the work done at the ISO level, and the Committee responsible for the preparation of this standard desires to acknowledge its indebtedness to the sources of information thus utilized.
The usual trade descriptions of the various grades of seedlac, as recognized in the United Kingdom, have been used throughout. These trade descriptions are well known internationally, and are recognized standards of the London Shellac Trade Association. An attempt has been made, however, to correlate these with the designations of the Recommendations of the International Organization for Standardization: the approximate correspondence for seedlac is as follows:

U.K. grading	Approximate ISO grading
Golden Kusmi	Special
Kusmi No. 1	A
Kusmi No. 2	B
Golden Bysacki	C
Fine Bysacki	D
No equivalent	E
Ordinary Bysacki	F

The mandatory requirements included in this specification are those for appearance and colour, volatile matter (moisture) and matter insoluble in hot alcohol, and methods of test are given for these. Also included are optional clauses and methods of test, operative only by agreement between purchaser and vendor, for colour index, matter soluble in water, non-volatile matter soluble in cold alcohol, and wax.
It will be noted that no requirements have been given for a “bleach test” or “bleachability” or for the absence of visible impurities. In the opinion of the Committee, work is not yet in a sufficiently advanced state to allow of the former, and visible impurities are effectively limited by the provisions of Clauses 2 and 5.
A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 9 and a back cover.
This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

Mandatory clauses

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for seedlac, the product obtained by washing crushed sticklac, the natural product of the lac insect (*Laccifer lacca*). Unless otherwise agreed between purchaser and vendor, the seedlac shall be of Indian origin and shall be of the crop implied by the grade name employed.

Six grades are specified, as follows:

- Golden Kusmi
- Kusmi No. 1
- Kusmi No. 2
- Golden Bysacki
- Fine Bysacki
- Ordinary Bysacki

2 Description

The form and condition of the material shall be as agreed between purchaser and vendor. The appearance and colour of the material shall be not inferior to those of an agreed sample, when judged by visual examination.

3 Sample

For the purpose of examination under this specification samples shall be drawn, parted and prepared in the manner described in Appendix A. Only original unopened packages of shellac shall be sampled.

Not less than 10 per cent of the packages, selected at random from each lot of not more than 200 packages, shall be sampled.

4 Volatile matter

The material shall not yield more than 2.5 per cent by weight of volatile matter when tested in the manner described in Appendix B.

5 Matter insoluble in hot alcohol

The material shall not contain more than the following specified limits of matter insoluble in hot alcohol, when tested in the manner described in Appendix C. By agreement between purchaser and vendor this limit may be relaxed but under no circumstances shall it exceed the relaxed limit.

Grade	Limit	Relaxed limit
per cent by weight		
Golden Kusmi	2.0	4.0
Kusmi No. 1	3.0	5.0
Kusmi No. 2		
Golden Bysacki		
Fine Bysacki	3.0	6.0
Ordinary Bysacki	5.0	8.0

6 Expression of analytical results

The results of analyses performed in accordance with the appendices to this standard shall be expressed to the number of significant figures indicated in the specification requirements. The principles embodied in BS 1957, "*Presentation of numerical values (fineness of expression; rounding of numbers)*", apply to such results.

Optional clauses

7 Colour index

When agreed between purchaser and vendor, the colour index of the material shall not exceed the following limits when determined in the manner described in Appendix D:

Grade	Limit
Golden Kusmi	8
Kusmi No. 1	
Kusmi No. 2	
Golden Bysacki	15
Fine Bysacki	22
Ordinary Bysacki	50

8 Matter soluble in water

When agreed between purchaser and vendor, the material shall not contain more than 1.0 per cent by weight of matter soluble in water, when determined in the manner described in Appendix F.