

78710 Camphor, Camphora

Chemical composition: C₁₀H₁₆O

The name comes from Kamfur, an old Arabic trade name for this substance. Camphor consists of colorless or white, soft, characteristically smelling, volatile pieces or white powder. In water camphor dissolves only very little. In alcohol, ether, acetone, chloroform and fatty oils it is easily soluble. Since camphor gasifies gradually even at room temperature, it must be kept well closed. Camphor burns easily with a strong sooty flame.

In China and Japan, camphor is obtained by steam distillation of the crushed wood of 40- to 50-year-old camphor trees (*Laurus camphora*, a laurel plant up to 12 m high) and subsequent repeated sublimation. Depending on the origin, a distinction is made between Formosa, Japanese and Laurineen camphor. The camphor tree thrives best at 500 to 2000 m altitude.

About 2/3 of the total camphor production is consumed in the celluloid industry. Celluloid is a plastic solid solution of nitrocellulose and camphor. Furthermore, camphor is needed for the production of smokeless gunpowder, moth repellents, disinfectants, for preservation of various museum specimens and for stimulation of cardiac activity in respiratory, cardiac or vascular collapse after anesthesia or in the course of infectious diseases.

Certificate of Analysis

Appearance:	white crystalline powder
Solubility:	equivalent
Identification:	passes test A and C
Appearance of solution:	clear and colorless
Acidity:	passes test
Optical elongation:	+41.4
Related substances:	passes test
Halogens:	< 100ppm
Water:	passes test
Evaporation residue:	< 0.05% w/w