



## Statement about color pigments

(Calw, January 2017) It is not possible to produce decorative cosmetics without using color pigments. A wide range of natural color pigments is now available to natural cosmetics manufacturers for creating eye shadow, lipstick, etc. on a natural basis.

The cosmetics industry divides pigments into two classes: color pigments and pearlescent pigments. Pearlescent pigments are the result of finely grinding mica platelets that have been coated with pigments of different colors. Color pigments typically have a mat look.

Iron oxide (black, red, orange, yellow) and titanium and zinc oxide are all inorganic pigments. The natural source of iron oxide is limonite ore. The iron-based pigments are also approved for use in food manufacturing.

The organic pigments include carmine, a red derived from cochineal insects. Börlind GmbH rejects the use of raw materials from dead animals. Instead, the company uses azo pigments such as CI 15850:1 [Red 7 Lake]. Another useful azo pigment is CI 15985:1 [Yellow 6 Lake], which helps to create brilliant colors. These pigments are also approved for use in food manufacturing.

The process required to create lake pigments ensures that they are insoluble, i.e. not bioavailable. Human bodies cannot absorb them or break them down.

Lake pigments are not the same as azo dyes, only a limited number of which are approved as color additives for food. In Germany, the azo dyes that have been proven prone to releasing toxic or cancer-causing amines are banned for use in commodities such as cosmetic items.

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