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Defining Quality for Over 40 Years

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

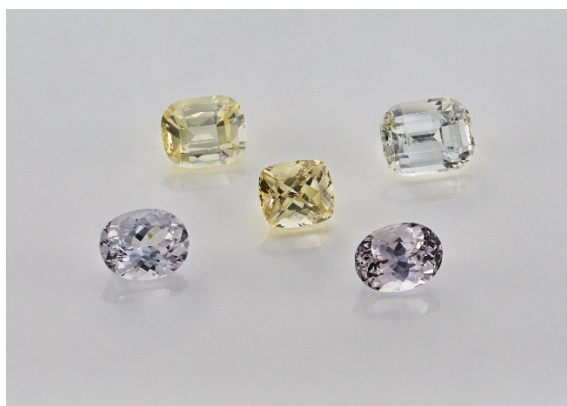
# AGL Discovers Heated Sapphires with Unstable Color Centers

**9 October 2019: NEW YORK** – In April 2019, AGL published a press release regarding the phenomenon of color shift in certain sapphire varieties with unstable color centers (also known as tenebrescence). (<http://aglgemlab.com/news/2019/4/25/agl-clarifies-its-policy-on-color-stability-testing-of-sapphires>)

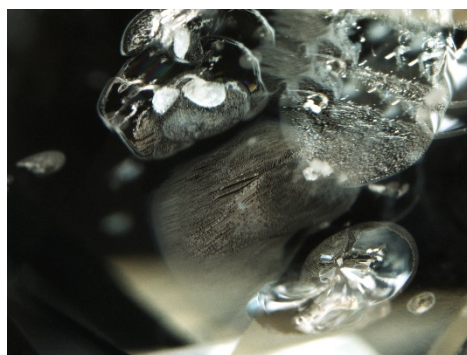
In these sapphires, color-centers can become active or relaxed (inactive) based on prolonged exposure to various sources of light and/or heat, resulting in an observed change in the stone's color and appearance.

For the past year, American Gemological Laboratories (AGL) has been collecting data on these sapphires, namely pink, padparadscha, orange and yellow varieties. As described in that release, a color shift was only in unheated and low-temp heated stones, but not observed in stones heated at relatively higher temperatures.

Recently however, AGL examined five sapphires that displayed unexpected results. Upon first observation the sapphires ranged from colorless to pale blue and light yellow. The findings were published in The Journal of Gemmology, Volume 36, No 7, pp 602-604. (<http://aglgemlab.com/news/journal-of-gemmology-2019-heated-sapphires-with-unstable-color-centers>)



After exposure to SWUV fluorescence all five stones' colors shifted to a stronger yellow. What was surprising was that all five sapphires showed evidence of relatively high temperature heating.



Due to our recent observations it has been determined that virtually all sapphires in the color range of pink through padparadscha and orange to yellow, as well as colorless to near-colorless, will need to be tested for their color stability regardless of their unheated or heated condition.

Since the issue of unstable colors has come to the fore, laboratories around the world have been devoting significant time and resources to check for this phenomenon. This new realization that all unheated and heated sapphires within the affected range of color will need to be tested, only increases this obligation. As a result, after considerable deliberation, AGL will add an additional charge of \$50 to each report where the test has been performed.

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