

**Carnauba wax (Cera carnauba)****Chemical name.** Carnauba wax; CAS Reg. No. 8015-86-9.**Description.** Pale yellow to light brown, moderately coarse powder, flakes, or irregular lumps of hard, brittle wax; odour, characteristic and free from rancidity.**Solubility.** Practically insoluble in water; soluble in toluene R; slightly soluble in boiling ethanol (~750 g/l) TS.**Category.** Polishing agent for coated tablets; viscosity-increasing agent for ointments; release-rate modifier for oral formulations.**Storage.** Carnauba wax should be kept in a well-closed container.**Requirements****Definition.** Carnauba wax is obtained from the leaves of *Copernicia cerifera* Mart. (Fam. Palmae).**Melting range.** 78-85 °C.**Ash.** Weigh 2.0 g and use an open porcelain or platinum dish. Heat over a flame; it volatilizes without emitting an acrid odour. Ignite; the residue weighs not more than 2.5 mg/g.**Acid value.** Use 3 g; not more than 8.**Saponification value.** Use about 3 g, accurately weighed, add 25 mL of xylene R, and dissolve by warming. To this solution add 50 mL of ethanol (~750 g/l) TS and proceed with the determination of saponification. Attach a reflux condenser and heat for 2 hours; 75-95.**Iodine value.** 5-14.