28.10 - Oxides of boron; boric acids.

(A) OXIDES OF BORON

Diboron trioxide (Boron sesquioxide) (B_2O_3) exists as transparent vitreous masses, crystals or white flakes.

It has been used for making synthetic precious or semi-precious stones (corundum, sapphire, etc.) by action on volatile metal fluorides.

The heading also includes all other oxides of boron.

(B) BORIC ACIDS

Boric acid (orthoboric acid) (H_3BO_3) is obtained either by acid decomposition of natural borates, or by physico-chemical treatment of crude boric acid.

It exists in the form of powder or small scales, micaceous flakes or vitrified lumps, with transparent edges, ash-grey or bluish (crystallised acid). It is odourless, greasy to the touch.

Its uses include : as an antiseptic (boracic water); for the manufacture of borosilicate glass (low coefficient of expansion), vitrifiable compounds, Guignet's green (hydrated chromic oxide), artificial borates (borax), hydroxy- and amino-anthraquinones; for impregnating candle wicks; for fire-proofing cloth.

Crude natural boric acid falls in **heading 25.28** when containing not more than 85 % of H_3BO_3, calculated on the dry weight; when the H_3BO_3 content exceeds 85 %, the acid is classified in this heading. Metaboric acid $(HBO_2)_n$ is also classified here.

The heading **does not include** :

(a) Tetrafluoroboric acid (fluoroboric acid) (**heading 28.11**).

(b) Glyceroboric acid (**heading 29.20**).