

file file - as original
Johnson & Johnson

Discussion with
WCW - It will
transmit to FDA for
the records - to wrap
New Brunswick, N.J. up the
May 23, 1977
quantity analysis

Subject: NIOSH Study of Free Silica Content
of Commercial Baby Powders
Project No. 0503.01

Mr. G. Lee

for
5/31/77

In the memo dated January 8, 1975 (attached), a NIOSH study of the free silica (quartz) content of commercial baby powders had been indicated by Dr. Janet Haartz, Chief, Inorganic Methods Development Section at NIOSH, to have yielded incorrect results. The wet chemical method of analysis used by the agency had been found to be faulty and inconsistent when applied to talcs. NIOSH personnel were reported to be developing new methodology (by infrared spectroscopy) for the determination of quartz in talc.

A recent personal inquiry to Dr. Haartz revealed that this study had been completed and reported by her as a portion of a paper presented at a Symposium on Silica, sponsored by the Industrial Health Foundation, March, 1975, in Pittsburgh. Dr. Haartz has now supplied us with a copy of her paper, entitled "A Review of the Wet Chemistry Method (Talvitie) for SiO_2 ". In it, she reports an exhaustive investigation of procedural problems of the Talvitie method as applied to quartz determinations in trap rock, kaolin, coal dust, granite, human lung tissue, and talc. Sections of interest from the paper are attached. Dr. Haartz has concluded that the method is "completely unreliable" when applied to the talc matrix. Reference is made to DTA and XRD analyses of portions from the same containers of Brands A and D (Table VI, p.51) which were performed in our laboratories and reported to NIOSH in 1974. Brands B and C had been reported by us as None Detected, having quoted a step-scanning x-ray diffractometry minimum level of detection of 0.1-0.2% (w/w) quartz.

I have identified the brands based on data previously released to us by NIOSH personnel and have included our analyses for comparison to Table VII, p.53 of Dr. Haartz' paper:

RECEIVED

MAY 27 1977

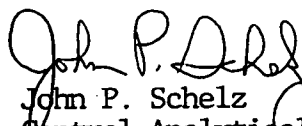
GEORGE LEE

NIOSH Study of Free Silica
Content of Commercial Baby Powders
Project No. 0503.01

-2-

May 23, 1977

<u>Brand</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>% Quartz (w/w)</u> <u>XRD/DTA (J&J)</u>
A	Baby Magic	0.5 - 1
B	Desitin	None Detected
C	Johnson's* Baby Powder	None Detected
D	Vaseline Intensive Care	0.5 - 1
E	Johnson's* Medicated Powder	None Detected
F	Crib Age	0.5 - 1


John P. Schelz
Central Analytical Laboratories

gm
Attachment

cc: Mr. W. H. Ashton
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Mr. W. C. Davies
Mr. S. P. Falk
Ms. Regina Gallagher
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