

FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

DATE: 1971 Sept 15

DOC#: TALC426

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Desert Minerals, Inc. from
American Conference of Govt Industrial Hygienists

Annals
of
GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS



September 15, 1971

Mr. E. J. Ellsworth, President
Desert Minerals, Inc.
American Mineral Company
1891 South Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, California 92651

Dear Mr. Ellsworth:

This is in response to your letter of September 8 in which you question whether the TLVs for the two different forms of TALC are now a part of the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Labor, as set forth in the Federal Register, Volume 36, No. 157, August 13, 1971.

Reference to Table G-3 -- Mineral Dust, page 15104 of the cited Federal Register volume, shows TREMOLITE with a standard of 5 million particles per cubic foot and talc to be 20 mppcf. This is not in conformity with the recommended values of the TLV Committee as set forth in the TLVs for 1970, in which the TLV for fibrous talc is pegged to the asbestos limit, which has now been modified to be 5 fibers per ml greater than 5 microns in length.

In regard to which standard is to be used, we would suggest that you follow the TLVs as provided in the booklet on the TLVs for 1970. We will call attention of the Department of Labor to this discrepancy with the request that they modify this and other discrepancies in conformity with the recommendations of the TLV Committee.

As to the status of the TLV Committee of the ACGIH, this body has served for more than a quarter of a century as a purely recommendatory group. With the passage of the Occupational Health and Safety Act the Department of Labor was directed to set standards for Airborne Substances in Workplaces and to regulate their compliance; thus the recommendations of the TLV Committee, when accepted by the Department of Labor and published in the Federal Register, now become enforceable standards. How the TLV Committee has operated is described in the accompanying reprint "Modus Operandi of Threshold Limits Committee of ACGIH." I am also enclosing a copy of the TLVs for 1970 for your information.

Sincerely yours,

CRMC-HT-TALC-000106

H. E. Stokinger
Herbert E. Stokinger, Ph.D.
Chairman, TLV Committee