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F.D.A. ASKED TO BAN ASBESTOS FILTERS

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UPI) —Two research and environmental groups urged the Government today to ban the use of asbestos filters. They said the filters were allowing potentially harmful particles to seep into fruit juices, gin and beer.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest and the Environmental Defense Fund said that studies had indicated a possible link between cancer and asbestos in liquid forms.

The groups asked the Food and Drug Administration to ban filters containing asbestos, which they said allowed asbestos fibers to escape into the material being filtered. They also sought a ban on talc in the preparation of food and drug products on the ground that the mineral often became contaminated with asbestos particles.

The F.D.A. has had under review for nearly a year a proposal establishing a zero level for asbestos in talc intended for use as a food additive. Talc is used as an adhesive material for pills, as a base for chewing gum and in coating polished rice.

The groups' petition said recent studies showed "particles in samples of commercially retailed gin filtered through asbestos filters" and other researchers found "the existence of asbestos particles in commercially retailed beer."