

Johnson & Johnson
BABY PRODUCTS COMPANY

RARITAN, N.J. 08869

March 18, 1977

TO: D. D. Johnston
D. R. Petterson

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS
J&J TALCS WORLDWIDE

This report presents a plan to avoid future loss of Baby Powder such as that recently sustained by J&J Japan. Our plan is initiated to forestall loss recurrence in Japan and is also designed for implementation worldwide.

Background

The discovery that recent talcs in Japan were substandard came to light in our current Worldwide Talc Monitoring Program which B. P. Research instituted on an organized basis at the outset of 1975. Although our Worldwide Monitoring reports have wide purpose and technical scope, they were never intended to include a quality acceptance feature for clearance of incoming goods at points of manufacture. The time lag is too long. We were fortunate that the Monitoring Program detected a problem in time to stop product distribution even though it was too late to save the dollar input into the merchandise.

The situation brings into focus the need for a test plan to clear incoming ground talcs for compounding into Baby Powder at the quality acceptance level, for all points of manufacture..

The Plan

There are different levels of sophistication and instrumentation presently required to assay talc purity. In view of this, it is not practicable or affordable to set up quality control type testing at each point of manufacture worldwide.

However, it is practicable to set up key stations at a few world locations through which short term quality control on freedom from asbestos can be obtained within the time period that production planning schedule requires.

The essentials of the Plan are:

- 1- B. P. Co. Research will designate consultant laboratory support with established analytical competence in the right fields of mineralogy located at these stations:
(a) England (b) Brazil (c) Japan and/or Australia.
- 2- These qualified supportive laboratories will service quality control of talcs sent to them for the absence of asbestiform minerals. The work will be done on a batch, lot, or shipment basis, based on the lead time our affiliates require for talc clearance prior to compounding.
- 3- The specifications and methodology to be used will be provided by B. P. Co. Research and presently includes Optical Mineralogy, X-Ray Diffraction, D. T. A. S. E. M., or T. E. M. techniques.
- 4- Acceptance reports of the talc shipments will be distributed simultaneously from each station's supportive laboratory with separate copies to B. P. Research, the submitting J&J affiliate, and to Intern'l Q. A. at N. B.

B. P. Research will provide special consultation or interpretation if, as, and where required.
- 5- The sampling plan and testing frequency will be devised according to the confidence category of the raw ground talcs assigned by B. P. Co. The frequency program will be worked out to conform to procurement and production requirements at the various points of manufacture and talc usage.

Comments

While the above plan will add to the expense of our powder business, it will enable us to keep on top of the technical complexities and the mercurial talc climate of today.

The Worldwide Talc Monitoring program conducted by B. P. Co. Research will continue in its total scope.

B. P. C. will continue its assigned responsibility for evaluating and approving any new talc sources worth looking into. That function includes appraisal of any talc rock or talc deposit problems as they arise.

B. P. C. will continue to issue a list of Confidence Categories rating the various talcs in use. (Note first issue was February 1975 transmitted to International Quality Assurance: second issue now in distribution.)

The Baby Company will not perform quality acceptance services on incoming ground talc for our affiliates.



G. Lee

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CC: W. H. Ashton