

February 1, 1977

TO: CTFA Scientific Advisory Committee

The CTFA submitted talc data to the OTC Anti-Microbial II Panel with regards to its safety review for use in the treatment of topical fungal infections of the feet and groin. This submission included the revised CTFA Cosmetic Talc Specification with Methods and importantly, a recently published review "The Biology of Talc". At its January 7/8 meeting, this Panel agreed that cosmetic grade talc as defined by the CTFA should be placed in Category I for Safety, whereas industrial grade talc is recommended for Category II, for pharmaceutical and cosmetic use on the body.

The only other OTC Panel scheduled to review talc is the Misc. External Products Panel. It is in possession of CTFA submitted data and a scheduled toxicological review is expected to be imminent.

Prompted by the results of a recently released study by Mt. Sinai alleging the presence of asbestos minerals in some of 21 unnamed talcum powders, members of the CTFA Talc Sub-Committee visited Drs. Langer and Rohl of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, on September 29, 1976. At this meeting, it was suggested that a CTFA round robin test of recent production of consumer talcum products be undertaken jointly with the Mt. Sinai Laboratory. Samples representative of the major brands were purchased with the assistance of personnel from the Mt. Sinai Laboratory, verified as 1976 production material, sub-sampled, coded and shipped to the following participants:

Mt. Sinai Environmental Sciences Laboratory
Food & Drug Administration, Division of
Cosmetics Technology
Avon Products
Chesebrough-Ponds
Colgate-Palmolive
Cyprus Industrial Minerals
Mennen
R. T. Vanderbilt
Whittaker, Clark & Daniels
Johnson & Johnson

The following products were included, in addition to two standard talc samples spiked with asbestiform amphibole minerals for use in verifying instrument detection sensitivity:

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Avon Beauty Dust
Ammen's Medicated Powder
Vaseline Intensive Care Baby Powder
Cashmere Bouquet Body Powder
Mennen Baby Magic Powder
Clouds of Clairol Herbal Essence
Johnson's Baby Powder

Participants were requested to employ CTFA Method J4-1 and to complete their analyses by January 31, 1977. This round robin is intended to affirm the integrity of current name brand talcum products.

The Health Research Group has issued a strong attack against OSHA's Field Memorandum 74-92 as having, unilaterally, redefined the dimensions and characteristics of an asbestos fiber to exclude tremolite particles from coverage in asbestos standards. It must be noted that this OSHA field memorandum's definition of a fiber is also employed in the CTFA Method J4-1 for detection of asbestiform amphiboles in Cosmetic grade talcs. This controversy has caused OSHA to refer the matter to NIOSH and the National Bureau of Standards who will study the medical and mineralogical aspects, respectively, of tremolitic talc. The subcommittee will monitor this situation.

George Sandland
Chairman, Talc Subcommittee