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EXAMINATION

OF

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON'S BABY POWDER

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EXHIBIT
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EXAMINATION OF JOHNSON AND JOHNSON'S BABY POWDER

Summary

Two samples of Johnson and Johnson's Baby Powder, batch number 108T and 109T, which correspond to the samples examined by Professor Seymour Z. Lewin of New York University on behalf of the FDA, have been examined by x-ray diffraction, light microscopy, transmission electron microscopy and electron diffraction to determine whether they contain any asbestiform minerals.

Both samples contained an insignificant amount of tremolite (< 0.5%). Neither sample contained chrysotile.

Introduction

On behalf of the FDA, Professor Seymour Z. Lewin of New York University is examining a number of commercial talcum powders for the presence of asbestiform minerals. Two of the samples which he has examined are samples of Johnson and Johnson's Baby Powder, batch number 108T and batch number 109T Johnson and Johnson therefore requested Walter C. McCrone Associates to examine samples from the same batches to determine whether they contained any asbestiform minerals.

Materials and Method of Conducting Tests

Two samples were submitted, identified as Johnson and Johnson's Baby Powder, batch numbers 108T and 109T.

For x-ray diffraction examination, the samples were examined on a Phillips-Norelco verticle diffractometer using CuKα radiation and a scanning speed of 1° per minute. The dispersion staining technique was used for the light microscopical examination and the electron microscopy-electron diffraction examination was carried out using procedures previously described (MA report 2330-1; dated 10 August 1971).

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Results

X-ray Diffraction

The diffractograms were carefully examined in the vicinity of the major peaks of chrysotile and tremolite. Neither mineral was present. The presence of peaks in the vicinity of 12.0-12-5° 2θ, the region in which one of the principal lines of chrysotile may be found, was correlated with peaks in the vicinity of 6° 2θ and are thus attributable to chlorites. No significant peaks were observed in the 24° region which would be required were chrysotile present.

Light Microscopy

Using the dispersion staining technique and a liquid of refractive index 1.550, the samples were examined for chrysotile particles and fibers, but none could be found. Using a similar technique with a liquid of refractive index 1.605, the samples were similarly examined for the presence of tremolite and a few individual crystals were found, some rod shaped. The total tremolite content of the two samples would be approximately 0.5% for 108T and about 0.2-0.3% for 109T.

Electron Microscopy and Electron Diffraction

Several electron microscope grids from both samples were examined in their entirety and although some fibers were observed these were shown by electron diffraction to be shards of talc or rolled talc. No chrysotile fibers were found.

Conclusion

A detailed examination of two samples of Johnson and Johnson's Baby Powder, batch numbers 108T and 109T has shown this material to be substantially free of asbestiform minerals. A few tremolite rods were observed in both samples at a level less than 0.5%. No chrysotile has been detected.

Respectfully submitted,

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