

Johnson & Johnson

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

08901

November 20, 1973

Robert Schaffner, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Product Technology
Bureau of Foods
Food and Drug Administration
200 "C" Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20204

Dear Dr. Schaffner:

As we discussed by phone this morning, our Vice-President for Research for the Baby Products Company, Dr. D. R. Petterson, and our Vice-President for Research for the Domestic Operating Company, Dr. R. A. Fuller, have expressed the desire to meet with Commissioner Schmidt to brief him on our efforts in the area of asbestos in talc and to offer our services toward solving the associated problems.

We would appreciate it if you would set up such a meeting at an early date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,
JOHNSON & JOHNSON

W. Nashed

W. Nashed, Ph.D.
Director of Science Information

wn/cw

The Commissioner

2

When the Johnson and Johnson officials visit you, they may mention some of the methods. I therefore thought that you would want to be informed ahead of time. (Tab B)

Robert M. Schefner, Ph.D.

Enclosures

Tab A - Letter from Johnson and Johnson

Tab B - Letter to Johnson and Johnson

The Commissioner

December 26, 1973

Through: The Deputy Commissioner

Director, Bureau of Foods 767 Vign O. Wodicka DEC 28 1973

Director, Office of Technology

Visit of Johnson and Johnson officials with the Commissioner scheduled
for January 15, 1974 - INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

PURPOSE

This memorandum furnishes background information concerning Johnson and Johnson's request to visit the Commissioner to discuss asbestos in talc. (Tab A).

TEXT OF THE INFORMATION

For the past two years the Food and Drug Administration has been carrying out investigations to determine the presence of asbestos in talc that is used in cosmetics. Most of our analytical work on cosmetic talc has been done through a contract with Professor Lewin, Chemistry Department of New York University. In a period of over a year Professor Lewin analyzed 195 samples of commercial cosmetic talc products by x-ray diffraction methods. The Johnson and Johnson people and others in the cosmetic industry, along with some talc suppliers, have participated with the Bureau of Foods in discussing various testing methods to determine the presence of talc.

Johnson and Johnson of course has as one of their major line products-- Baby Talcum Powder. They were vitally concerned that the methods of analysis were correct and sound, and that we got no false positives in the detection of asbestos in their talcum powders. Two of the Johnson and Johnson talcs (Lewin samples 84 and 131) were suspected by Dr. Lewin of containing asbestos but these were not confirmed by other analysis using confirmatory methods.

Through this whole investigation Johnson and Johnson have used their own research manpower and many consultants. In fact, in one meeting that we had with them, 16 technical people from United States and Europe presented a seminar covering analytical methods, toxicology, and mining technology. As far as we know, Johnson and Johnson is the only company that has its own talc mines.

December 26, 1973

Dr. W. Rashed
Director of Science Information
Johnson and Johnson
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

Dear Dr. Rashed:

In response to your letter of November 20, 1973, and confirming our telephone conversation of December 20, we are pleased to be able to arrange for a meeting with the Commissioner for you and Dr. S. A. Petterson, Vice-President for Research for Baby Products Company, and Dr. R. A. Puller, Vice-President for Research for the Domestic Operating Company, on Wednesday, January 16 at 10:00 AM, at the Food and Drug Administration building, 200 C Street, S.W. We suggest that in advance of this time you go to Dr. Todick's office, Room 4815, as he will be expecting you; he will participate in the discussions with the Commissioner and his Associates.

I am sorry that I will not be in town for this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Schaffner, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Technology
Bureau of Foods