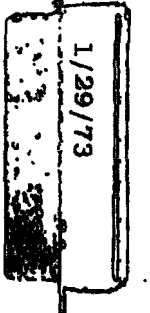
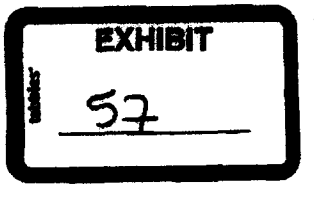
FILE NAME: Johnson & Johnson (JAJ)

DATE: 1973 Jan 29

DOC#: JAJ064

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo RE Talc/Asbestos


1/29/73


EXHIBIT
57

780

Johnson & Johnson

New Brunswick, N.J.
January 29, 1973

Subject: Talc/Asbestos

Dr. R. A. Fuller

Mr. Stites told me on Friday that CTFA received inquiries from a Mr. Spivak, a Wall Street Journal reporter, who told them that FDA is about to issue regulations governing asbestos in talc and asked them what is industry doing about it.

CTFA also told Mr. Stites that they understand FDA is going to issue such regulations based on "no detectable asbestos in talc by x-ray" and that they will also release Dr. Lewin's report (updated).

On Friday, I tried to get in touch with Dr. Schaffner, Dr. Weissler, and Mr. Wenninger at the FDA but it was too late in the day. I learned that Dr. Schaffner is in a meeting on the West Coast and is due back Tuesday.

Today I called Mr. Wenninger, Chief, Cosmetics Branch, who reports to Dr. Weissler. I asked him if FDA is about to issue talc/asbestos regulations. He said to the best of his knowledge, his records show that they plan to have a regulation written by March 19, 1973. However, he will confirm this information to me. I told him that it is my understanding that Dr. Lewin's report will also be released at that time and that our latest information from Dr. Schaffner is that Dr. Lewin found J&J products to be free of asbestos with the exception of one medicated powder sample which showed "traces of asbestos." I said that traces of asbestos means that it is probably less than 1%, i.e., not detectable by x-ray. I pointed out that if the Lewin report is released simultaneously with the regulation requiring no detectable asbestos by x-ray, there will be an inconsistency between the findings of the Lewin report and the regulation. Therefore, it would be advisable if all of Lewin's reports will be based on x-ray scan rather than other means. I added that we had examined our Medicated Powder by x-ray and find no detectable asbestos.

Mr. Wenninger said that he understands the problem and that he will make a point of bringing it up with Dr. Weissler and Dr. Schaffner as soon as possible.

JAS [illegible]73

Protected Document--Subject to Protective Order

I also added that we had talked to Dr. Schaffner and gone on record in writing that we will be ready to discuss the animal and clinical data on talc and we have had no response so far. He suggested that I discuss this with Dr. Schaffner when he comes back.

Two hours later, he called me and confirmed that the March date is still their target date for regulations and he is even doubtful that they can meet it.

I reported this information to both Mr. Stites and Mr. Foster.

W. Nashed

wn/cw

cc: Mr. D. D. Johnston
Mr. J. Dettre
Mr. H. R. Callum
Dr. D. Petterson
Mr. S. Smoyer
Mr. H. Stolzer
Dr. G. Hildick-Smith
Dr. T. H. Shelley

Protected Document–Subject to Protective Order