

SUMMARY REPORT OF
CTFA TALC SUB-COMMITTEE

CTFA Talc Sub-Committee met on March 11, 1976 to review recent press report pertaining to analysis of talcum powder products.

As a result of information collated from the attending company representatives, the following facts were ascertained:

1. The samples were analyzed by Sinai in 1973.
2. Samples were confirmed as pre-1971 production with one product which has not been manufactured since the end of World War II.
3. The asbestos analytical results of Sinai are in conflict with those determined on the same samples by Dr. Pooley, a Cardiff scientist of world renown. Mt. Sinai reported ten samples as containing up to 20% asbestos, whereas Pooley detected asbestiform mineral in only five samples and at considerably lower levels.

Based on the above situation the committee felt that it would be important to put this situation in proper perspective by:

1. Presenting summary data to FDA to affirm the responsible action which has been pursued by our industry since 1972 when the asbestos concern first surfaced - Plan "A"
2. Considering a sampling of current industry production and submitting this to analysis by FDA, Mt. Sinai and independent analytical laboratories - Plan "B" - to be carried out only if Plan "A" were found to be insufficient.

Action taken to date has been the following:

1. Plan "A" was executed immediately over the weekend and on March 15, letters were received from the following companies and critically reviewed:

Avon
Chesebrough Ponds
Colgate Palmolive
Coty
Cyprus Minerals
Faberge
Johnson & Johnson
Walter McCrone Associates
Sterling Drug
Whittaker, Clark & Daniels

Approximately 4,000 analyses have been reviewed covering the period as early as 1971.

2. The talc sub-committee met with Dr. Schaffner and his staff on the afternoon of March 15 to summarize and present these documents. FDA was suitably impressed but urged consideration for the inclusion of a sampling plan in the CTFA Talc Standard. In consideration of the voiced practical difficulties, due to individual situations, Dr. Schaffner, as an alternative, suggested the voluntary submission of periodic reports on talc analyses. We were advised that the FDA has analyzed seventy six samples of talc products in 1975 and has not detected asbestos, according to their methods of analysis, "DTA and Optical Microscopy". Samples of these products implicated by Sinai have been offered by the FDA to Mt. Sinai laboratories for their analysis.

The Revised Talc Standard was submitted to the CTFA headquarters on March 18, 1976 for publication.

Another meeting of the Talc Sub-Committee has been scheduled for March 31, 1976 to discuss the following:

1. Discussion of further CTFA strategy, vis a vis, Mt. Sinai e.g. - data exchange, methodology of analysis.
2. CTFA analysis of FDA pick-up samples from their 1975 survey.



G. Sandland, Chairman
Talc Sub-Committee