



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Chicago, Illinois 60616

December 20, 1973

Hearing Clerk
Food and Drug Administration
Room 6-86
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Subject: Comments on Proposed Standards for Asbestos
Particles in Talc.

Dear Sir:

The Federal Register (Vol 38, No. 188, Friday, September 28, 1973) listed proposed standards limiting the quantity of asbestos in talc used for foods & drugs. The proposed standards state that, "A count of not more than 1000 amphibole types of asbestos fibers and not more than 100 chrysotile asbestos fibers per milligram-slide constitutes the maximum limit for the presence of these asbestos fibers in talc. These limits assure a purity of talc at least 99.9 percent free of amphibole types of asbestos fibers and at least 99.99 percent free of chrysotile asbestos fibers".

The percentages listed for each category of asbestos fibers and the number of asbestos fibers per mg do not agree with each other. I present some calculations below for your review with the suggestion that the proposed standards be modified to bring the "number of fibers" and "percentages" into agreement.

Respectfully yours,

Ronald G. Draftz
Research Scientist
Fine Particles Research

cc: C. Harwood
J. Stockham
M. Ingber

RGD/nh

175P-0261

C44