

Johnson & Johnson

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New Brunswick, N.J.
January 20, 1977

Subject: PROGRESS REPORT TO THE CTFA SCIENTIFIC
ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE TASK
FORCE ON ROUND ROBIN TESTING OF
CONSUMER TALCUM PRODUCTS
PROJECT NO. 0503.01

Dr. D. R. Petterson

During the visit of members of the CTFA Talc Subcommittee with Drs. Langer and Rohl of the Environmental Sciences Laboratory, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, on September 29, 1976, it was suggested that a CTFA round robin test of consumer talcum products be undertaken jointly with the Mt. Sinai Laboratory. This action was prompted by the results of a recently released study by Mt. Sinai alleging the presence of asbestos minerals in some of 21 unnamed talcum powders. This study involved talc products manufactured, where known, during or prior to 1973. Since that time, some cosmetic talc companies have obtained alternate talc sources.

The Mt. Sinai Laboratory agreed to participate in the CTFA-sponsored Task Force together with FDA and cosmetic talc industry to test 1976-manufactured off-the-shelf products representing the largest current market sales volume. It was further agreed that CTFA Method J4-1 (Detection of Asbestiform Amphibole Minerals in Cosmetic Talcs) would be employed. The following laboratories are participating in this Task Force, utilizing either in-house analytical facilities or consulting services:

Mt. Sinai Environmental Sciences Laboratory
Food & Drug Administration, Division of
Cosmetics Technology
Avon Products
Chesebrough-Ponds
Colgate-Palmolive
Cyprus Industrial Minerals
Mennen
R. T. Vanderbilt
Whittaker, Clark & Daniels
Johnson & Johnson

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The samples were purchased in New York City with the assistance of personnel from the Mt. Sinai Laboratory, verified as 1976 production material, sub-sampled and coded, and mixed with small amounts of perfume to mask familiar product fragrances. Sample sets were shipped to participating laboratories on December 20, 1976, with the request that analyses be completed by January 31, 1977. The following products were included, in addition to two standard talc samples spiked with asbestiform amphibole minerals for use in verifying instrument detection sensitivity:

Avon Beauty Dust
Ammen's Medicated Powder
Vaseline Intensive Care Baby Powder
Cashmere Bouquet Body Powder
Mennen Baby Magic Powder
Clouds of Clairol Herbal Essence
Johnson's Baby Powder

A summary of test results will be compiled as soon as all analytical reports have been received. It is hoped that this round robin will produce a consistency in test results among the CTFA member companies, FDA, and the Mt. Sinai Laboratory, and that these current talcum products will be found free of asbestiform amphibole minerals.


John P. Schelz Ph.D.
Chairman, CTFA Task Force
Central Analytical Laboratories
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cc: Dr. N. F. Estrin
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Mr. G. Sandland
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GEORGE LEE