

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING
July 8, 1971

8/4/71

Those attending the meeting: Robert M. Schaffner, Ph.D. BF-400
Hyman R. Gittes BF-151
John M. Cowdy, M.D. BF-432
William V. Eisenberg BF-216
Raymond E. Newberry BF-311
Sylvan H. Newburger, Ph.D. BF-433
Charles J. Kokoski, Ph.D. BF-148

Subject: Contamination of Talc with Asbestos

The meeting discussing some of the problems associated with the health hazards of talc contaminated with asbestos was held in Dr. Robert M. Schaffner's office on July 8, 1971.

1. A very important problem is the identity, quantitation, and particle size distribution of any asbestos that may be present in talc.

Mr. Eisenberg said that Mr. Arnold E. Schulze of his group has been using a polarizing microscope to identify types of asbestos both by visual appearance and optical constants. When the particle size is less than 5 microns, identification becomes difficult although size measurements can be made at 1-2 microns by light microscopy.

Mr. Eisenberg has the use of a Sperry Rand scanning electron microscope. He will investigate the use of this instrument as well as an x-ray diffraction unit operated by the Drug Abuse Group at 501 1st Street.

2. Dr. Cowdy's comments:

- (a) The Bureau of Drugs has made a study of the hazards associated with the use of talc and corn starch on surgical gloves. (See Dr. Benson Schwartz).
- (b) Product Safety is interested in coats and other products containing asbestos as a constituent. (See Dr. Jensen and Sam Hart)
- (c) Hazards associated with talc may be due to asbestos contamination.
- (d) Most of the toxicological hazards from contaminated talc arise from its respiration.
- (e) Talc introduced into the body cavity by surgical gloves during operations can cause serious health problems (adhesions, granulomas).
- (f) Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the Occupational Health Laboratory Cincinnati (1014 Broadway) should be visited to learn their experimental techniques for analyzing talc and asbestos.

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3. Dr. Schaffner commented that the Office of Compliance should collect regulatory samples of talcs and also determine the origin of the talc in these samples. It would also be advisable to obtain the two body powder talcs (5 and 25% asbestos content) to see if the analytical data of Mt. Sinai can be duplicated.

4. Whittaker, Clark, and Daniels are going to visit the FDA on July 15 to discuss the talc problem. They will mail us some information about prior to their visit.

5. Some of the Scientific Staff of Johnson and Johnson will visit the FDA on July 8, 1971 to discuss their talc products.

Sylvan R. Newburger, Ph.D.
Acting Chief, Cosmetics Branch BF-433
Division of Colors & Cosmetics Technology

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