FILE NAME: Talc (TALC)

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Specifications

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October 9, 1974

Mr. H. B. Vanderbilt
President
Chief Executive Officer
R. T. Vanderbilt Company, Inc.
30 Winfield Street
Norwalk, Connecticut 08855

Dear Mr. Vanderbilt:

This is in reply to your letter of September 26, concerning your request for relief from the asbestos standard for your talcs containing non-fibrous tremolite, actinolite, and anthophyllite.

My letter of August 6 stated that non-fibrous or non-asbestiform minerals such as non-asbestiform tremolite are not within the scope of the asbestos standard and, therefore, the provisions of that standard do not apply to talc containing non-asbestiform minerals.

NIOSH is currently conducting a thorough investigation into the exact minerals to which talc workers were exposed in those studies where asbestosis or other adverse medical effects were found.

Pending the receipt and evaluation by OSHA of the report by NIOSH on this investigation, if you have scientific evidence that the naturally occurring talcs, prior to processing by milling or crushing, do not contain fibrous or asbestiform tremolite, antophyllite, actinolite or other asbestiform minerals, you may certify to your customers that the talc does not contain asbestos.

Fibrous, asbestiform minerals such as fibrous tremolite means naturally occurring asbestiform minerals which prior to or after crushing and processing, contain fibers made up of fibrils.

Sincerely,

/s/ John H. Stender

John H. Stender
Assistant Secretary of Labor.

C O P Y

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