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Johnson & Johnson

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SUBJECT: Notes on ASTM Committee Meetings  
10/9 - 10/10/78 Sheraton Hotel, Phila., Pa.

TO: File

Committee E-34 OSHA/Asbestos Task Force

Progress on the asbestos document has been interrupted by an aspect ratio validity test which the Canadian members of the committee launched. They have conducted a 13 laboratory round robin to see what the relationship of 3:1 to 5:1 determined optically is to TEM or SEM findings. A Mr. Earl Gagen of Environment Canada (the EPA of Canada) seems to be running this study and also engaged Ontario Research [Institute] to help out. At this point, only the first half of the test is available but indicates that 3:1 directly relates to the 5:1 optical count, which in turn relates to the SEM findings using chrysotile from the same lot distributed to all the labs. The second confirming test will take about two months to finish.

The above development has the uncomfortable tone of reviving the original NIOSH method which is considered a setback by those of us on the task force who work on non-asbestos material. A special meeting will be called to go over the second test and decide how the findings affect the major document which has been in process for the past few years. The meeting will probably be in Montreal in December or January.

Committee D-22.04 Methods of Sampling & Analysis of Atmospheres

The sub-committee relating to mineral dusts has submitted a proposed method for the determination of airborne talc dust; T. Oulton is chairman of this group. The proposal requires careful review.

Notes on ASTM Committee Meetings  
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Committee D-22.09 International Standards

This group has recently taken up interest in airborne particulates as they may relate to overseas operations. They are considering an asbestos document and possibly a blanket type mineral dust document. There are several sections but the one which can affect our operations is Sub-Committee SC-2, which is headed up by a Dr. Ted Kneip of the NYU Medical Center in New York City. The activities of this group are worth monitoring to make sure talc is not equated to other minerals.

*A*  
W. H. Ashton

/by

cc: G. Lee

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## Metadata

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