

Crow

Johnson & Johnson

BABY PRODUCTS COMPANY

October 25, 1983

SKILLMAN, N. J. 08558

SUBJECT: Report On ASTM and Associated Society Meetings
Bal Harbour, Florida 10/16 - 10/19/83

TO: B. Semple, M.D.
D. Jones to File
G. Lee

RESPIRABLE DUSTS

ASTM Committee D.22 Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

The task group which advises this committee agreed on new technical guidelines for a proposed method and expects to have the first draft ready for subcommittee balloting at the next meeting in the Spring of 1984. The method will be in accord with the method for respirable dusts presently under development by ISO as proposed by NIOSH staff. It involves a personal sampler equipped with a pump and cyclone which weighs the ten micron and below size fractions.

Committee D22 comprises 350 scientists. The subcommittee has 100 members and the Task Group which drafts the method has seven expert members. (Ashton is Chairman of the Task Group responsible for this method.)

ISO (International Standards Organization)

The method under development by ISO (redrafted 9/19/83) is attached. We have obtained NIOSH permission to adopt it to ASTM format. (NIOSH has specialists advising ISO on dust.)

WHO (World Health Organization)

Specialists at the above meetings confirmed that WHO is developing a document covering airborne particles in atmospheres as part of their series "Guidelines on Occupational Hygiene Methodology." A recent draft of the document defines fibers as particles which have a length to width ratio of at least 3. (Note: This does not take into account the chemistry or mineralogy of the particles and is the source of the main part of the controversy we have been opposing for the past decade.)

WHO (World Health Organization) Continued

The key men on the WHO committee spearheading the document are presumably Prof. Morton Corn (Johns Hopkins and former OSHA official), B. Gcelzer, Industrial Hygienist for WHO and Dr. F. Valic.

I plan to call or visit Morton Corn to learn more of their plans and what impact the document may have in our industry.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEETING

ASTM Committee E-34 T.G. 34.08

This committee is responsible for the Asbestos Health Standard recently issued, and which was under development for 11 years. Originally it included all mineral fibers and had uncomfortable talc connotations which were ultimately removed, mainly due to our perserverance and activities on the committee.

The present standard although recently issued had a literature cut off almost six years ago. The committee decided 10/18/83 to update the definitions involved. The proposed new definitons for a revised standard are attached, in the paper dated 10/18/83. Note that these definitions recommend an aspect ratio of 100:1 for asbestos fibers. The proposed new definitions are expected to be in the next printing of the Standard.

The complete standard will be revised after the publications for the last six years on asbestos/health have been reviewed by the task group and the Medical/Toxicology division of the ASTM main committee E-34.

It is important for us to keep in touch with this activity to make sure talc is not inadvertently included in a revision.

OTHER INFORMATION

National Academy of Sciences

There is a reliable report that the NAS is developing a document on the Non-Occupational Health Risk of Asbestiform Particles. The document was initiated by Mt. Sinai staff. One of the reviewers of the document indicated talc is mentioned but could not disclose further details. I will try to get additional information in due course. The reviewer has been instructed to keep the matter confidential to date.

Canadian Talc Standard

Ontario is developing a talc/asbestos standard which involves one of their talc companies (Canada Talc Industries of Madoc, Ontario): I will be obtaining additional information in the next couple weeks and consider the development important to clarify. The talc deposit involved has a high level of tremolite and it will be valuable for us to learn whether the proposed standard will have a positive or negative impact on the the talc/asbestos controversy.

McMasters University of Hamilton, Ontario is assisting in writing the standard.



W. H. Ashton

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cc: J. Olcott

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