

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

TO : Acting Director
Bureau of Foods

DATE: March 19, 1976

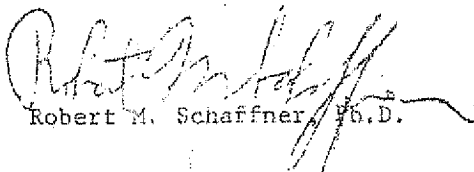
FROM : Associate Director for Technology

SUBJECT: Asbestos in Talc - Proposed Regulation

As you may recall, since the recent Washington Post article, our people have been having numerous meetings with members of the cosmetic industry regarding talc. At our last meeting on March 15, 1976, various companies submitted to Mr. Eiermann summaries of their analyses.

Mr. Eiermann has in the attached memorandum evaluated their summaries and comes to the conclusion that although the companies have done some work, the work has not been terribly extensive, and based on the work to date we probably could not say with certainty that the industry is adequately handling the problem. Therefore, Mr. Eiermann recommends and I concur that a proposed regulation be drawn up stating essentially that talc would be asbestos free when examined by using x-ray diffraction and differential thermal analysis.

If you agree, we will prepare such a proposed regulation, discuss with our counterparts within the Agency, and try to have it to you within a month. If you agree to the proposal, I think it should appear on our priority list and I would suggest that we plan to have it ready to leave the Bureau during the second quarter of the 1976 calendar year.


Robert M. Schaffner, Ph.D.

Attachment

cc HFF-440

*Agree
with
compliance
with
regulations*