

asbestos minerals to talc in the preparation of their standards is by no means an assurance that the samples later examined also contained asbestos. Use of such standards has the effect of prejudging the samples before they are ever examined, and in this case has led to impossible results and invalid conclusions.

In the above discussion, I have described some of the errors and invalid procedures of mineralogical identification and quantification as used by the authors. It is therefore apparent that the stated major purpose of their paper, namely "to determine the mineralogical and chemical composition, with particular emphasis on the quantitative determination of tremolite, anthophyllite, serpentine minerals, and quartz," has not been achieved. Accordingly, the results reported are without analytical basis and the conclusions drawn are invalid and misleading.

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