



THE ART & CREATIVE MATERIALS INSTITUTE, INC.

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Statement on Talc in Art Materials By Deborah M. Fanning, CAE, Executive Vice President The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc.

As a result of conflicting information and possible consumer confusion from reports of asbestos in ceramic clays in Connecticut schools, not from safety concerns, ACMI has required member manufacturers using Nytal talc, if any, to reformulate their products within six months to replace such talc with suitable alternatives. ACMI believes this is a situation similar to that which occurred in 2000 with talc in crayons, when ACMI member companies agreed to reformulate crayons to replace the talc at the request of then Commissioner Ann Brown. Even though tests by the Consumer Product Safety Commission found traces of “asbestos-like fibers,” but in levels so small that Commissioner Ann Brown described them as “scientifically insignificant” and stressed that “there is no cause for concern,” the companies reformulated to maintain consumer trust in their brands.

Our toxicologist, Dr. Woodhall Stopford of Duke University, has required testing of clays and related products for dust production during foreseeable use and cleanup activities. Based on the amount of asbestiform fibers that might be in clays using Nytal talc and based on EPA's risk assessment for asbestos, he found no excessive risks to users of such ceramic products. This evaluation is posted on Dr. Stopford's web site and has been reviewed by CPSC's Health Directorate. It was resubmitted to CPSC after Connecticut raised their concern. This risk assessment covers all art or craft materials that may contain Nytal talc. Based on the lab reports of CPSC and other labs and the risk assessment of ACMI's toxicological team at Duke University, ACMI does not believe certified art materials containing Nytal talc, if any, then or now need to be recalled from the marketplace.