TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

(Data in thousand metric tons, unless noted)

<u>Domestic Production and Use</u>: The total estimated crude ore value of 2001 domestic talc production was \$25 million. There were nine talc-producing mines in six States in 2001. Companies in Montana, New York, Texas, and Vermont accounted for most of the domestic production. Ground talc was consumed in ceramics, 28%; paint, 21%; paper, 20%; roofing, 8%; plastics, 5%; rubber, 4%; cosmetics, 3%; and other, 11%. Three firms in California and North Carolina accounted for all of the domestic pyrophyllite production, which decreased from that of 2000. Consumption was, in decreasing order, in ceramics, refractories, and paint.

Salient Statistics—United States:1	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	2000	2001°
Production, mine	1,050	971	925	851	914
Sold by producers	942	870	881	831	808
Imports for consumption	123	165	208	270	147
Exports	179	146	147	154	136
Shipments from Government stockpile					
excesses	_	_	(²)	_	_
Consumption, apparent	992	990	986	967	925
Price, average, processed dollars per ton	118	126	116	116	118
Stocks, producer, yearend	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Employment, mine and mill	776	730	690	640	620
Net import reliance ³ as a percentage of					
apparent consumption	Е	2	6	12	1

Recycling: Insignificant.

Import Sources (1997-2000): China, 45%; Canada, 22%; France, 11%; Japan, 7%; and other, 15%.

Tariff: Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12/31/01	
Crude, not ground	2526.10.0000	Free.	
Ground, washed, powdered	2526.20.0000	Free.	
Cut or sawed	6815.99.2000	Free.	

Depletion Allowance: Block steatite talc, 22% (Domestic), 14% (Foreign); other, 14% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile:

Stockpile Status—9-30-01⁴ (Metric tons)

Material	Uncommitted inventory	Committed inventory	Authorized for disposal	Disposal plan FY 2001	Disposals FY 2001
Talc, block and lump	907		907	907	2
Talc, ground	988	_	988	_	_

TALC AND PYROPHYLLITE

Events, Trends, and Issues: Production increased 7% and sales decreased 3% from those of 2000. Apparent consumption decreased 4%. Exports decreased by 12% compared with those of 2000. Canada was the major destination for U.S. talc exports, accounting for about 38% of the tonnage. U.S. imports of talc decreased by 46% compared with those of 2000, bringing them more in line with recent consumption trends. Canada, China, and Japan supplied approximately 75% of the imported talc. Imports from China declined by about 50% in 2001 compared with those of 2000.

In 2000, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Toxicology Program (NTP), considered including talc on its list of carcinogens in its 10th Report on Carcinogens (RoC) for Congress. The NTP Board of Scientific Counselors Report on Carcinogens Subcommittee voted against listing talc not containing asbestiform fibers and talc containing asbestiform fibers in its annual report. Several members of the panel did not feel that human and animal data were sufficient to warrant listing in the report and questions arose about possible contamination of the talc mentioned in several of the health studies cited.

World Mine Production, Reserves, and Reserve Base:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁵	Reserve base⁵
	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001°</u>		
United States ¹	851	914	140,000	540,000
Brazil	452	450	14,000	54,000
China	3,500	3,500	Large	Large
India	545	550	4,200	7,300
Japan	743	740	160,000	200,000
Korea, Republic of	776	770	14,000	18,000
Other countries	<u>2,770</u>	<u>2,570</u>	Large	Large
World total (rounded)	9,640	9,490	Large	Large

<u>World Resources</u>: The United States is self-sufficient in most grades of talc and related minerals. Domestic and world resources are estimated to be approximately five times the quantity of reserves.

<u>Substitutes</u>: The major substitutes for talc are clays and pyrophyllite in ceramics, kaolin and mica in paint, kaolin in paper, clays and mica in plastics, and kaolin and mica in rubber.

^eEstimated. E Net exporter. NA Not available. — Zero.

¹Excludes pyrophyllite.

²Less than ½ unit.

³Defined as imports - exports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁴See Appendix B for definitions.

⁵See Appendix C for definitions.