

TOBACCO ADDITIVES

The industry and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have agreed on an arrangement for the industry's disclosure of several 'commonly used' flavors and casings. 'Commonly used' means by three or more companies. An initial list will include the materials shown in Appendix I. Additional materials may be added to the list.

HHS' actions upon receipt of the additives listing are not clearly anticipated. In the past, harassment might have been expected. Today, a more rational response is possible; yet, optimism must be restrained since HHS staff is a carry over from the previous administration. Cocos, licorice, glycerin, and even sugar are prime candidates for their comments if they choose to harass.

Unless some change in industry attitude occurs, it is likely the industry will determine its next actions after HHS reacts to the current submissions.

SELF-EXTINGUISHING CIGARETTE

The self-extinguishing cigarette is one approach suggested to diminish the role of cigarettes in starting fires. The U.S. Bureau of Standards report on preliminary method development showed that self-extinguishment does not necessarily lower propensity of cigarettes to ignite flammable materials. This changed the scope of the issue and suggested that clear cut technical solutions are not imminent.

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New federal legislation was not proposed this year, but several bills were proposed at the state legislature level. Television specials were aired in some large cities depicting the horrors of fires presumably started by cigarettes.

No new scientific data has been forthcoming this year.

The issue is still viable. Legislation at either the federal or state level is still possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL CIGARETTE SMOKE (ECS)

No epidemiological studies were reported that significantly impacted the issue of environmental cigarette smoke and its health affect on the nonsmoker. Literature debate continues on the merits of previous studies. The literature did contain reports that confirm that nonsmokers are exposed to measurable levels of ECS and do absorb some of that smoke. The best current estimate of intakes of particular and nicotine per day by the nonsmoker is the equivalent of smoking somewhat less than one medium tar cigarette per day. A seemingly encouraging result, but unlikely to quickly satisfy the objections of antismoking activists. Their logic is that there is no known safe level for such materials as nitrosamines, benzopyrenes, and as yet, unidentified smoke components.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers, has adopted standards which set ventilation requirements for indoor smoking areas at five times more than non-smoking areas.

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LESS HAZARDOUS CIGARETTES

The less hazardous cigarette concept has not gained stature this past year. The smoker may be at less risk to suffer lung cancer as a consequence of filtered cigarettes of the sixties rather than the very high delivery plain cigarettes of the fifties. But his risk remains higher than the nonsmoker. There is increasing commentary on the use of faster burning cigarettes and ventilation to achieve current/low deliveries. Both approaches are coming under scrutiny as having little benefit in reducing health risks. The question of smoker behavior (compensation) is now publicly debated. In the U.S., there is no current, vocal champion of consequence of the less hazardous cigarette.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The NCI program now primarily consists of epidemiological and behavioral studies. Both are obviously intended to either strengthen the case against smoking or develop techniques for helping the smoker to give up smoking.

They have requested proposals for a small (70 person) switching study (high versus low tar) on which respiratory parameters, puff profiles and blood levels of nicotine, cotinine and carboxyhemoglobin will be measured.

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They are also requesting proposals "to investigate the pharmacological role and biological effects of nicotine related to tobacco product carcinogenesis." This effort focuses on chronic inhalation exposure of small animals (or humans) to cigarette smoke. Funding for the first year will be about \$350,000.

The 1983 Surgeon General's report will focus on cardiovascular disease.

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APPENDIX I

COMMONLY USED SUBSTANCES

Alcohol

Corn Syrup

Cocoa and Cocoa Shells

Chocolate and Chocolate Flavors

Glycerine

Licorice (powder, extract, etc.)

Menthol (natural and synthetic)

Propylene Glycol

Sugar (invert, syrup, dark brown, etc.)

Vanillin

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