

February 16, 1983

Imperial Tobacco Limited/Limitée



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Dear Eian,

Thank you for your letter to Dr. Dunn which was received only yesterday and has now been passed to me for reply. I have read the draft report covering the collaborative mutagenicity study and would like to see the following points included:-

- (1) Reference should be made in the introduction to the Ames mutagenicity study on the Phase 1 Agriculture Canada cigarettes reported by IIL in 1979 (1). This study is definitive in that it was the first large one to have the benefit of a detailed statistical evaluation, and found to show that cigarettes could indeed be differentiated in terms of Ames mutagenic activity (1,2). The IIL reference given in the "Introduction" (Reference no. 3) is also useful because it summarizes a large number of in-house studies, and should be retained.
- (2) It should be stated in the "Discussion" that both, the method of smoke condensate collection as well as the metabolic activation system (S-9) could determine the absolute value of the number of mutants obtained in each laboratory. Even though the S-9's were prepared by similar procedures, the levels of the activating enzymes would vary from batch to batch (animal variation), as seen in this laboratory over the years, and could easily influence the absolute number of mutants obtained. An even better agreement in results would have been obtained had the same S-9 been used by the three laboratories.

References

1. IIL, Montreal Research Laboratory Memo, January 1979.
2. B.A.T. Report No. R.D. 1759-C, October 1980.

I look forward to seeing you later in April when I visit Southampton.

With Best Wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(M.H. Billmorica)

c.c. Dr. P.J. Dunn
Dr. S.E. Massey

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