

The results appear to be consistent with volatile acid transfer to the filter from the tobacco section. In the case of unpacked cigarettes this is subsequently evaporated over 8 weeks to attain the original pH value. Note conclusion (ii) on packed cigarettes where such evaporation is not possible until the pack is opened, hence maintaining filter acidity, ~~but up opening remains unchanged~~ for ^{at least} 2 months, presumably controlled to some extent by sealing efficiency. This looks slightly analogous to menthol transfer.

There is a suggestion that all samples for smoke evaluation should be packed within a few days of manufacture and held in this way until required. A standard storage condition would then be necessary.

Commercially, the maintenance of standard conditions becomes impractical, and if one happens not to have very highly efficient seals on the pack, the product could appear variable when smoked at irregular storage intervals by the consumer.

Presumably the acidity of the filter could be controlled but from brand to brand the pH

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of any one particular product might be an identifiable characteristic that appeals to the smoker, in which case it could be difficult settling on a fixed value of pH for a brand or group of brands.

A poorly packed 8 weeks old "Embassy" may appeal to the "Embassy" smoker, but may not have the smoke phase 'intended' taste.

A further factor to consider is the environment during smoking, i.e. humidity, temperature etc.

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This report shows that filters attached to cigarettes decrease in pH when the cigarettes are smoked. It could be that some cigarettes produce different filter pH changes to others.

It is also possible that the pH of the filter after the first puff is taken, is the same as that for unsmoked filters. In other words, the acid activity of the filter is partially neutralized in the first puff. In the case covered by the pH of the filter after smoke has been collected on it will be around 5-5.5 anyway (depends on the pH of the smoke).

If we wish to be sure that our smoke panel receive cigarettes similar to the received by the consumer, then the cigarettes should be tested for a few weeks before evaluation. In fact I believe this actually happens in many smoke panel tests. This could be particularly important when carbon filters are being tested and I know that we do view the cigarettes with the filters attached for some time before smoke panel testing.

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