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Environmental Tobacco Smoke Studies

A work programme for the study of ETS has been detailed and is underway. The key objective is to place ETS in proper perspective through the measurement of chemicals, including constituents of ETS, in the air of real-world environments. To provide support to this work, and to form a defence against those wishing to criticise the Company over ETS issues, a series of more fundamental projects regarding the nature of ETS are being progress concurrently.

One field study responded to the introduction of some "no-smoking" betting shops. The study revealed that in shops where smoking was allowed, ETS levels were extremely low. Furthermore, the major source of volatile chemicals, such as benzene, found in both smoking and no-smoking shops, was the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles passing by outdoors.

Currently, further real-world monitoring studies of an office environment, train compartments and private homes are all progressing.

Fundamental studies have shown the importance of exhaled mainstream smoke to ETS, and that the ambient levels of nitrosamines in a controlled room are similar whether smoking 5 cigarettes or frying a pan of bacon.

The current programme will involve further field studies (e.g. leisure environments) and more fundamental research (e.g. Ames activity of ETS). However, at the present resource level, large statistically significant field studies cannot be envisaged. The establishment is well set to undertake the fundamental research, but even here third party endorsement of work may prove useful.

The adequacy of the programme should be discussed. In order to be in a position to influence governmental bodies/the public, it may be necessary to place more effort into work by "third parties" either solely sponsored by BAT or perhaps by organisations such as the Centre for Indoor Air Research which is presently co-ordinating such work.

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