

TGM/JP/AGP

16th July 1987

ADDITIVES AND COMPONENTS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Our products are made up of a variety of materials, despite their apparent simplicity of composition. In particular, additives can be used in each of the main components, such as flavours and casings on the tobacco, adhesives and fillers in the paper, plasticisers on the filter tow and printing inks.

Some of these materials are purchased as specific chemicals, e.g. preservatives and plasticisers, but others are obtained as proprietary formulations, the exact composition of which is a trade secret of the manufacturer.

The Company operates two systems to control the use of additives in its products:

1. The Code Name System, to maintain commercial secrecy and protect its know-how in the use of additives, and
2. The Additives and Materials Guidance Panel, to scrutinise additives and to ensure that their use should not lead to adverse consequences. The Panel obtains disclosures of the composition of products from suppliers under confidentiality agreements in order to discharge its responsibilities.

It follows from this that, whilst operating companies will know the nature of the materials they are using as additives, they are unlikely to be fully informed of their actual composition. In the reverse direction, records of use of coded materials are not kept at the Centre except for some international brands.

Today, sensitivities about the use of specific chemicals can be market issues, as well as concerns over regulatory status or opinions concerning scientific assessment. In the past few years, examples of these have been eugenol and coumarin in the USA and diethylene glycol in West Germany, Japan and elsewhere. These sensitivities are associated with the ready availability of techniques for detecting foreign substances via consulting laboratories available to those hostile to the industry.

In BATCo we are not well placed to respond to such threats. Action is now proposed to meet them by collating data on exactly what materials are being used on our products around the world. By checking information against records held by the Additives and Materials Guidance Panel, we can ensure that we have the details required. We should then be in a position to react to new concerns over materials in respect of both brands and territories. It would also be possible to respond to localised threats where sensitivities to the use of specific substances exist and could lead to an antagonistic response if found on tobacco products.

A scheme to meet these objectives is proposed which would be restricted to BATCo companies and operated from R&DC, Southampton. It would involve close liaison between the staff responsible for Code Names, Additives and Materials Guidance Panel, and Flavour Development records.

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In order for this to go forward, each Company is asked to respond by completing a proforma for each brand manufactured, detailing the additives and other components used.

A copy of the proforma is attached. Completed forms should be sent to:

The Secretary,
Additives and Materials Guidance Panel,
R & D Centre,
BAT (UK & E) Ltd.,
SOUTHAMPTON,
SO9 1PE,
United Kingdom.

In view of the commercial sensitivity of the information, completed forms should be sent by a secure route and it is desirable that a specific person in each company should be identified to R&DC in order for any queries to be addressed most effectively. Receipt of documents by R&DC will be acknowledged. R&DC should be advised of any changes in usage as and when they occur. In the absence of that, companies will be asked to reaffirm the position annually.

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