

L.C.F.B.  
20 MAY 1982  
FROM: R. Thornton



Group  
Research  
and Development  
Centre

TO Mr. R.L.O. Ely,  
Public Affairs,  
Millbank.

FROM R: E. Thornton

REF RET/LAP/46D

DATE 18 May, 1982

Following our meeting at GR&DC, I now enclose a document which explains the work carried out in our Biological Sciences Group and which I hope is suitable for you to send to Number Ones of Associate Companies. I am sorry for the delay - you know the reason why!

*Ray*

R. E. THORNTON

CC

Dr. L. C. F. Blackman,  
Mr. A. L. Heard.

Enc

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5 May, 1982

BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT GR&DC

Biological research at GR&DC was originally set up, in 1972, mainly to anticipate the requirements of the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health. This Committee was formed in 1973 to advise the Secretaries of State in the UK, principally with regard to appropriate tests for tobacco products. In fact the company, based on the high level of expertise in its Biological Research Unit, has been able to maintain excellent relations with the Independent Committee, and to influence the formulation of guidelines for the examination of tobacco products.

In this respect, as a result of having its own biological research unit, it is probably fair to say that BAT are the most influential of the UK tobacco companies. Two other companies contract out all their biological research to independent organisations; the other has a small in-house unit (but does not carry out animal studies). Our policy is to contract out the more routine and repetitive studies, or those in which we do not have appropriate expertise.

The Independent Committee's protocols involve the use of animals and, in order to meet these requirements, we carry out experiments involving smoke inhalation by rats, which are the only animals used in our experiments.

Such animals are kept in excellent conditions in a purpose-built laboratory and the premises are inspected, without prior warning, by Inspectors from the U.K. Home Office, who have the authority to shut our unit immediately, if we do not follow good laboratory practice. It has always been our intention that our standards should exceed the Home Office requirements, and every inspection has been more than satisfactory. A typical experiment would involve approximately 80 animals.

As our programme of work has developed, increasing emphasis has been placed on research with the aim of developing tests which require the use of fewer animals or none at all. This includes tests related to changes in the levels of biochemicals (for example enzymes) and tests using bacteria (Ames Test). Currently, approximately 60% of the effort of the unit is directed towards such studies, and this figure is likely to increase.

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More recently some efforts have been made towards studying the biological effects of smoke in human subjects, although most of these studies, of necessity, are carried out under contract.

The work of the unit has ranged from the development of methodology for measuring the amount of smoke inhalation in rats, to an investigation of BAT's smoking material (BATFLAKE) in accordance with approved protocols, and to studies on novel filter additives.

Currently, the unit is examining a number of product variables (expanded tobacco, processed tobacco, cigarette paper etc) and flavour materials by the wide range of tests now available. Interpretation of the results of biological studies is not always easy and, in addition to the expertise of its staff, BAT is fortunate in having available advice from consultants who have world-wide reputations for excellence.

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