



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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Your reference
Our reference

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

M M Ord-Johnstone Esq CB
Tobacco Advisory Committee
Glen House
Stag Place
London SW1E 5AG

30 March 1977

Dear Mr Ord-Johnstone

At its meeting on 25 March the Independent Scientific Committee on Smoking and Health (Hunter Committee) concluded the consideration of your 3 lists of additives to tobacco products which have been in long-term use in North American and Western Europe.

In reaching a decision on these additives, the Committee considered all relevant chemical and toxicological evidence. Particular attention was given to the maximum inclusion rates for cigar, cigarette and hand rolling tobaccos and also for pipe tobaccos. The Hunter Committee has drawn up a list of additives for use within the quantities specified on tobacco products in the United Kingdom which it has found unobjectionable. The Committee would wish to see a marketing submission for the use of any of the additives in the attached list when it was proposed to add them to a smoking product containing a substitute for tobacco. It will not require a marketing submission for the use of these additives with tobacco alone. The Committee understands that companies will notify the Department of Health and Social Security of additives and/or substitutes to which the Committee has raised no objection, and the companies will inform the Department which of these are included in products at the time when the products are marketed for sale to the public in the United Kingdom.

The use of any additive which is not included in the attached list is not agreed by the Committee either because a satisfactory identification has not been made, or difficulties still exist in agreeing a satisfactory definition, or because some evidence has come before the Committee which would indicate a possible harmful effect.

The Hunter Committee has been unable to include cocoa in list 1 in view of the NCI's mouse skin painting data. The NCI's initial screening programme "Towards Less Hazardous Cigarettes" (Series III) showed that cocoa in combination with cigarette tobacco enhanced the tumourigenicity of the resulting condensate. In view of the low level of addition of cocoa to cigarette tobacco in the NCI study (1%), which is less than the maximum permissible rate of inclusion recommended by your Committee, manufacturers or importers wishing to market any smoking product new to this country containing cocoa or various extracts of cocoa would be requested to demonstrate that in combination with tobacco there is no resulting increase in tumourigenicity of the smoke. Existing pipe tobacco products containing cocoa and sold in the United Kingdom will be unaffected by the Committee's decision but the Hunter Committee

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recommended that no new brands may be marketed until the evidence on the toxicity of cocoa in cigarette tobaccos has been clarified.

The Hunter Committee notes that the TAC will be shortly submitting a further list of additives which have a history of 20 years or more usage on tobacco products, but for which scientific evidence exists to indicate that their usage should be strictly limited on toxicological grounds.

The Hunter Committee, after consulting the industry, has agreed the revised guidelines on the testing of tobacco products containing tobacco additives. This supersedes the guidelines (Appendix IV) published in the Committee's First Report and companies are requested to use this as a working paper until such time as a Second Report is published.

A number of companies have made enquiries concerning the addition of tobacco extracts to tobacco products. The Hunter Committee intend to treat tobacco extracts in the same way as other additives and will expect the testing and marketing submission to follow the revised guidelines.

I have copied this letter to Mr Heard of ITPAC, to each manufacturer and importer consulted on the revised guidelines, and to those companies whose additive marketing submission can be considered now that the Hunter Committee list of additives has been drawn up.

The Hunter Committee will, in the light of its list, now consider the status of each additive marketing submission which it has received. Submissions which include only additives mentioned in the attached list in the quantities specified will be approved automatically. Other submissions will be considered in accordance with the revised guidelines.

You may wish to know that the next meeting of the Hunter Committee has been arranged for 6 May, 1977.

Yours sincerely

F A Fairweather
Chief Scientific Adviser -
Independent Scientific Committee
on Smoking and Health

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