

It would thus be desirable to provide a smoking article having a different organoleptic experience for the smoker, with a first configuration in which a flavour is isolated from the flow of air through the smoking article and a second configuration in which the flavour is exposed to the flow of air. It would also be desirable to provide a smoking article with controllable flavour release.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided, a smoking article comprising a first segment, a second segment, and an aerosol generating substrate coupled to the first and second segments. At least one of the first and second segments comprises a vapour release portion, The first segment and the second segment interact to form an airflow pathway that does not incorporate the flavour release portion, whereby the first and second segments are movable relative to each other from a first configuration to a second configuration such that the smoking article is provided with a changeable length, whereby in the first configuration the vapour release portion is substantially isolated from an airflow pathway and in the second configuration the vapour release portion is exposed to the airflow pathway.

As used herein, the term "airflow pathway" connotes the entire pathway along which air flows through the smoking article, for example from the rod end of the aerosol generating substrate, through the aerosol generating substrate itself, and then to the mouth end of the smoking article.

The term "isolated" connotes that the release of the vapour components within the vapour release portion into the airflow pathway is inhibited, and thus the vapour components are limited in their ability to contribute to the organoleptic properties of the aerosol. On the contrary, the term "exposed" connotes that the vapour components within the vapour release portion are open to the airflow pathway relative to the isolated configuration to contribute to the organoleptic sensation of the smoker.

As used herein, the term "longitudinal" refers to the direction along the central axis of the smoking article, and the term "transverse" refers to the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction. The terms "end surface" and "side surface" refer to surfaces, or walls, of components of the smoking article that are parallel to the transverse direction and parallel to the longitudinal direction respectively. The terms "mouth end" and "rod end" refer to the ends of the smoking article closest to the smoker's mouth, and furthest from the smoker's mouth respectively.

By providing a smoking article with such first and second configurations the smoker may be provided with the advantage of vapour release on demand. The smoker may be provided with the advantage of controlling the level of vapour from substantially zero. Thus the smoker may be provided with an improved organoleptic control. Furthermore, the shelf-life of the smoking article may be improved because the volatile vapour components are substantially isolated from the airflow pathway, and hence are retained within the vapour

release portion more effectively during storage. In this way, the vapour components within the vapour release portion may be better contained prior to the desired release of the vapour on movement of the first and second segments from the first configuration to the second configuration.

5 The aerosol generating substrate of the present invention contains tobacco or another nicotine-containing substance. As such, smoking articles according to the present invention may comprise an aerosol generating substance in which tobacco material is heated to form the aerosol, rather than combusted. Alternatively, a nicotine-containing aerosol may be generated from a tobacco material, tobacco extract, or other nicotine source, without
10 combustion or heating. In a further alternative, the aerosol generating substrate may be a tobacco rod or the like. In this case, the tobacco rod is preferably formed from a tobacco material adapted to be combusted to form an aerosol in the form of smoke, such as with a cigarette or other combustible smoking article.

 The term “vapour” refers to any agent that can be incorporated into a component of a
15 smoking article in order to provide an effect on the aerosol or smoke generated during smoking. The vapour may be, for example, a substance that is capable of reducing one or more constituents of the aerosol. Alternatively, the vapour may be a substance that is capable of reacting with one or more other substances in the smoking article to produce, either directly or indirectly, an aerosol. In preferred embodiments of the invention, the vapour
20 is a flavour composition and the vapour release portion is adapted to be loaded with the flavour composition. The vapour may be loaded into the flavour release portion as a liquid which subsequently vaporises to provide the vapour.

 In the following description, the invention will be described with reference to a flavour release portion that is adapted to be loaded with a flavour composition. However, it will be
25 clear that the teaching can also be applied to a material for the release of an alternative vapour.

 The first segment and second segment each may be any component of the smoking article, and may be positioned at any longitudinal position along the smoking article. Preferably, the first segment and the second segment form at least a portion of a mouthpiece
30 of the smoking article. More preferably, the first segment and second segment form at least a portion of a multi-component filter positioned at the mouth end of a smoking article.

 The first segment and the second segment may interact to substantially isolate the flavour release portion from the airflow pathway. ~~Preferably~~ In more detail, the first segment and the second segment interact to form an airflow pathway that does not incorporate the
35 flavour release portion. As such, in the first configuration, the first segment and second segment

CLAIMS:

1. A smoking article comprising:

5 a first segment;

 a second segment; and

 an aerosol generating substrate coupled to the first and second segments;

 wherein at least one of the first and second segments comprises a vapour release

10 portion and wherein the first segment and the second segment interact to form

an airflow pathway that does not incorporate the flavour release portion,

 whereby the first and second segments are movable relative to each other from

 a first configuration to a second configuration such that the smoking article is

 provided with a changeable length,

15 whereby in the first configuration the vapour release portion is substantially isolated

 from ~~an the~~ airflow pathway and in the second configuration the vapour release

 portion is exposed to the airflow pathway.
2. A smoking article according to claim 1, wherein the first segment is movable relative to the

20 second segment, such that in the first configuration the longitudinal length of the smoking

 article is shorter than in the second configuration.
3. A smoking article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first segment comprises the

 vapour release portion and the second segment defines a cavity that is adapted to receive

 at least a section of the vapour release portion, whereby in the second configuration a

25 section of said vapour release portion remains partially within the cavity.
4. A smoking article according to claim 3, wherein said vapour release portion has

 substantially impermeable end surfaces and a permeable side surface, and said cavity

 has a substantially impermeable inner surface such that in the first configuration the

30 impermeable surfaces form a vapour container to isolate the vapour release portion from

 the airflow pathway.
5. A smoking article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the second segment comprises the

 vapour release portion and defines a cavity that is adapted to receive at least a section of

35 the first segment, said first segment has permeable end surfaces and a substantially

 impermeable side surface, and said second segment has a permeable inner surface and

 substantially impermeable end surfaces, such that in the first configuration the

 impermeable surfaces form a vapour container to isolate the vapour release portion from

 the airflow pathway.