

SMOKING ARTICLE WITH FLAVOR DELIVERY SYSTEM

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Smoking articles, particularly cigarettes, generally comprise a tobacco rod of shredded tobacco (usually, in cut filler form) surrounded by a paper wrapper, and a cylindrical filter aligned in an end-to-end relationship with the tobacco rod. The filter preferably includes a plug of cellulose acetate tow attached to the tobacco rod by tipping paper. Ventilation of mainstream smoke is achieved with a row or rows of perforations about a location along the filter.

Cigarette packages perform the functions of containing a pre-selected bundle of cigarettes and protecting the cigarettes from mechanical and environmental damage. In addition, a package protects the freshness of the cigarettes, which deteriorates with exposure to air.

Cigarette packages are preferably made from paper into the so-called soft package that tears open on a top panel, and from paperboard into the so-called hard package that preferably includes an integral reclosable lid. Both types of package preferably include a foil or foil laminate wrapped about a bundle of cigarettes, and an outer sealed wrapper of plastic film, typically polypropylene. The foil bundle wrap and the outer wrapper help maintain the freshness of the packaged cigarettes.

Encapsulation is a process by which a core material is captured within a second material (encapsulate) or capsule. Aromas and flavors can be encapsulated in capsules of varying sizes so that the flavor is preserved until the rupture of the capsule by mechanical or other force. Preservation of aromas and flavors within the capsule assures that upon release of the flavor it is consistently as strong as when it was first encapsulated.

SUMMARY

According to a first aspect, there is provided a smoking article comprising a tobacco rod and a filter, said filter including a ventilation hole; and at least one capsule containing a flavorant that is released upon rupture of the capsule, the capsule positioned on an external surface of the smoking article such that the released flavorant is drawable into said smoking article through said ventilation hole, wherein the capsule is ruptured upon removal of the smoking article from a package.

According to a second aspect, there is provided a flavor delivery system comprising: a package; and at least one smoking article according to the first aspect within the package.

According to a third aspect, there is provided a method of treating mainstream smoke with a flavourant, comprising the steps of: providing a smoking article according to the first aspect; releasing the agent by rupturing the encapsulated form of the flavourant; and contacting the mainstream smoke with the flavourant by drawing the released agent through the ventilation hole.

~~According to the present invention~~ There is also provided a smoking article comprising: a cigarette comprising a tobacco rod and a filter, said filter including a ventilation hole; and at least one capsule containing a flavorant, the capsule positioned on an external surface of the cigarette. The flavorant is released upon rupture of the capsule and the capsule is positioned such that the released flavorant is drawable into said cigarette through said ventilation hole.

~~According to the invention~~ There is further provided a flavor delivery system comprising: a cigarette package; and at least one smoking article according to the invention within the cigarette package, wherein the at least one capsule containing a flavorant is arranged on an external surface of the cigarette such that the at least one capsule is ruptured upon removal of the at least one smoking article from the cigarette package.

~~The present invention further provides~~ Also disclosed is a method of treating mainstream smoke with an agent, comprising the steps of: providing a smoking article according to the invention; releasing