CLAIMS

1. A smoking article incorporating a liquid release component, the liquid release component comprising:

an inner core of a sustained release liquid delivery material comprising:

a closed matrix structure comprising a cross-linked polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains; and

a liquid composition that is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material, wherein the liquid delivery material provides a sustained release of the liquid composition upon compression of the material over a range of force of at least 5 Newtons; and

a frangible outer shell encapsulating the inner core of liquid delivery material, the frangible outer shell comprising at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser, the outer shell comprising less than 12 percent by weight of the at least one plasticiser, based on total dry weight.

2. A smoking article according to claim 1 wherein the at least one film-forming polymer in the outer shell comprises a polyester film-forming polymer, a cellulosic film-forming polymer or a combination thereof.

3. A smoking article according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the at least one film-forming polymer in the outer shell comprises a starch based film-forming polymer.

4. A smoking article according to any preceding claim wherein the outer shell comprises at least 80 percent by weight of the at least one film-forming polymer, based on total dry weight.

5. A smoking article according to any preceding claim wherein the average thickness of the outer shell corresponds to at least 2 percent of the maximum diameter of the inner core.

6. A smoking article according to any preceding claim wherein the outer shell has an average thickness of between 25 microns and 500 microns.

7. A smoking article according to any preceding claim wherein the outer shell corresponds to at least 5 percent by weight based on the total dry weight of the liquid release component.

8. A smoking article according to any preceding claim wherein the maximum diameter of the liquid release component corresponds to at least 30 percent of the maximum diameter of the smoking article at the position of the liquid release component.

9. A filter for a smoking article comprising a liquid release component, the liquid release component comprising:

an inner core of a sustained release liquid delivery material comprising:

a closed matrix structure comprising a cross-linked polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains; and

a liquid composition that is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material, wherein the liquid delivery material provides a sustained release of the liquid composition upon compression of the material over a range of force of at least 5 Newtons; and

a frangible outer shell encapsulating the inner core of liquid delivery material, the frangible outer shell comprising at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser, the outer shell comprising less than 12 percent by weight of the at least one plasticiser, based on total dry weight.

10. A flavour release component for a smoking article, the flavour release component comprising:

an inner core of a sustained release liquid delivery material comprising:

a closed matrix structure comprising a cross-linked polymer matrix defining a plurality of domains; and

a flavour composition that is trapped within the domains and is releasable from the closed matrix structure upon compression of the material, wherein the flavour delivery material provides a sustained release of the flavour composition upon compression of the material over a range of force of at least 5 Newtons; and

a frangible outer shell encapsulating the inner core of flavour delivery material, the frangible outer shell comprising at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser, the outer shell comprising less than 12 percent by weight of the at least one plasticiser, based on total dry weight.

11. A method of producing a flavour release component according to claim 11, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a flavour composition by dispersing a flavourant in one or more fats that are liquid at room temperature (22°C);

mixing the flavour composition with a matrix solution comprising one or more polysaccharides to form an emulsion;

adding the emulsion to a cross-linking solution to cross-link the polysaccharides to form an inner core having a polymer matrix including a plurality of domains of the flavour composition;

coating the inner core with a coating solution comprising at least one film-forming polymer and at least one plasticiser; and

drying the coated inner core to form a flavour release component having a frangible outer shell, the outer shell comprising less than 12 percent by weight of the at least one plasticiser, based on total dry weight.