CLAIMS

1. A smoking article comprising:

a tobacco rod; and

a filter connected to the tobacco rod, the filter comprising:

a first filter segment; and

a hollow tube segment downstream of the first filter segment, the hollow tube segment defining a cavity at the mouth end of the filter providing an unrestricted flow channel that extends from the downstream end of the first filter segment to the mouth end of the filter,

wherein the length of the hollow tube segment is at least about 25 percent, and less than about 50 percent, of the overall filter length and wherein the smoking article comprises a ventilation zone in communication with the cavity at a location along the hollow tube segment,

wherein the ventilation zone is located from about 10 mm to about 15 mm upstream from the mouth end of the filter.

2. A smoking article according to claim 1, wherein the length of the hollow tube segment is less than about 25 mm.

3. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the length of the hollow tube segment is at least about 10 mm.

4. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ventilation zone is located at least about 1 mm downstream from the downstream end of the first filter segment.

5. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ventilation zone comprises at least one circumferential row of perforations provided through the hollow tube segment.

6. A smoking article according to claim 5, wherein the at least one circumferential row of perforations comprises from 8 to 30 perforations.

7. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the thickness of the hollow tube segment is from about 90 micrometres to about 140 micrometres.

8. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the thickness of the hollow tube segment is from about 100 micrometres to about 130 micrometres.

9. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hollow tube segment is formed from a plurality of overlapping paper layers.

10. A smoking article according to claim 9, wherein the hollow tube segment is formed from a plurality of spirally wound paper layers.

11. A smoking article according to claim 9 or 10, wherein adjacent paper layers of the hollow tube segment are adhered together by an intermediate layer of an adhesive.

12. The smoking article according to any preceding claim, wherein the difference between the ovality of the hollow tube segment after 50 percent deformation of the filter and the ovality of the hollow tube segment prior to deformation of the filter is less than 25 percent.

13. A smoking article according to any preceding claim, wherein the ovality of the hollow tube segment after a 50 percent deformation of the filter is less than 25 percent.