Claims

1. An aerosol-generating system configured for oral or nasal delivery of a generated aerosol to a user, the system comprising:

a heater element configured to heat an aerosol-forming substrate to generate an aerosol;

a power source connected to the heater element;

a controller connected to the heater element and to the power source, wherein the controller is configured to control operation of the heater element, the controller including or being connected to a means to detect a change in air flow past the heater element;

first data storage means connected to the controller for recording detected changes in airflow past the heater element and data relating to the operation of the heater element; and

second data storage means comprising a database relating changes in airflow and data relating to the operation of the heater element to the properties of the aerosol delivered to the user; and

an indication means coupled to the second data storage means for indicating properties of the aerosol delivered to the user.

2. An aerosol system according to claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to control power supplied to the heater element from the power source to maintain the heater element at a target temperature and is configured to monitor changes in a temperature of the heater element or changes in the power supplied to the heater element to detect a change in air flow past the heater element.

3. An aerosol-generating system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the controller is configured to compare a measure of power supplied to the heater element or energy supplied to the heater element from the power source to a threshold measure of power or energy to detect the presence of an aerosol-forming substrate close to the heater element or a material property of an aerosol-forming substrate close to the heater element.

4. An aerosol-generating system according to any preceding claim, wherein the database comprises data specific to a particular type of aerosol-forming substrate.

5. An aerosol-generating system according to claim 4, further comprising identifying means for identifying the aerosol-forming substrate received in the device or a user

interface configured to allow a consumer to input data identifying the aerosol-forming substrate received in the device.

6. An aerosol-generating system according to any preceding claim, wherein the data relating to the operation of the aerosol-generating element comprises the temperature of heater element or power supplied to the heater element.

7. An aerosol-generating system according to any preceding claim, comprising a housing, wherein the second data storage means or the display, or both the second data storage means and the display are contained within the housing together with at least one of the heater element and the power source.

8. An aerosol-generating system according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the system comprises an aerosol-generating device and one or more secondary devices to which the aerosol-generating device may directly or indirectly coupled, and wherein the second data storage means and the display are part of the one or more secondary devices.

9. An aerosol-generating system according to claim 8, wherein the secondary device is a charging device configured to replenish the power source in the aerosol-generating device.

10. An aerosol-generating system according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the properties of aerosol delivered to the user comprise amounts of particular chemical compounds.

11. An aerosol-generating system according to any preceding claim, wherein the system is an electrical smoking device.

12. A method of providing aerosol delivery data to an end user of an electrically heated aerosol-generating device, the device comprising a heater element and a power supply for supplying power to the heater element, and means to detect a change in air flow past the heater element comprising:

recording in a first database detected changes in airflow past the heater element and data relating to the operation of the heater element; and

extracting from a second database relating changes in airflow and data relating to the operation of the heater element to properties of aerosol delivered to the user, based on

the detected changes in airflow and data relating to the operation of the heater element from the first database, properties of the aerosol delivered to the user; and

indicating, using an indication means coupled to the second database, the extracted properties of the aerosol delivered to the user.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of detecting or providing at least one characteristic of the aerosol-forming substrate received in the device, wherein the step of extracting is also based on the at least one characteristic of the aerosol-forming substrate received in the device.

14. A method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the extracted properties of the aerosol delivered to the user comprise amounts of particular chemical compounds.

15. A computer program that when executed on a computer or other suitable processing device, carries out the method of any one of claims 12 to 14.