

CLAIMS:

1. A smoking article ~~(10)~~ comprising:

a rod of smokable material ~~(12)~~;

5 a filter ~~(14)~~ comprising a flow restriction element ~~(26, 26')~~ attached to the rod of smokable material ~~(12)~~, the flow restriction element ~~(26, 26')~~ comprising:

a first upstream integral tubular portion ~~(30, 30')~~;

a second downstream integral tubular portion ~~(32, 32')~~ of substantially the same external diameter as the first tubular portion ~~(30, 30')~~;

10 a third central integral tubular portion ~~(34, 34')~~ located between the first and second tubular portions ~~(30, 30', 32, 32')~~, the third tubular portion ~~(34, 34')~~ being of reduced external diameter compared to the first and second tubular portions ~~(30, 30', 32, 32')~~; and

15 a transverse barrier ~~(36, 36')~~ having at least one orifice ~~(38, 38')~~ provided therein, the transverse barrier ~~(36, 36')~~ being disposed between a first upstream cavity ~~(40, 40')~~ at least partially defined by an inner periphery of the first tubular portion ~~(30, 30')~~ and a second downstream cavity ~~(42, 42')~~ at least partially defined by an inner periphery of the second tubular portion ~~(32, 32')~~; and

20 a ventilation zone in communication with the second cavity ~~(42, 42')~~ at a location along the filter ~~(14)~~.

2. A smoking article ~~(10)~~ according to claim 1 wherein the transverse barrier ~~(36, 36')~~ has a single substantially central orifice ~~(38, 38')~~ having a diameter of between 0.4 mm and 0.8 mm provided therein.

25 3. A smoking article ~~(10)~~ according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the filter ~~(14)~~ is attached to the rod of smokable material ~~(12)~~ by a band of tipping paper ~~(16)~~ and the ventilation zone comprises at least one circumferential row of perforations ~~(44)~~ provided through a portion of the tipping paper ~~(16)~~ overlying the third tubular portion ~~(34, 34')~~ of the flow restriction element ~~(26, 26')~~.

35 4. A smoking article ~~(10)~~ according to claim 3 wherein the first cavity ~~(40)~~ of the flow restriction element ~~(26)~~ is at least partially defined by an inner periphery of the first and third tubular portions ~~(30, 34)~~.

5. A smoking article according to claim 4 wherein one or more openings~~(46)~~ are provided in an upstream transverse end surface of the second tubular portion~~(32)~~ that form a communication path between the second cavity~~(42)~~ and the at least one circumferential row of perforations~~(44)~~.

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6. A smoking article according to claim 3 wherein the second cavity~~(42')~~ of the flow restriction element~~(26')~~ is at least partially defined by an inner periphery of the second and third tubular portions~~(32', 34')~~.

10 7. A smoking article according to claim 6 wherein one or more openings~~(46')~~ are provided in a circumferential surface of the third tubular portion~~(34)~~ that form a communication path between the second cavity~~(42')~~ and the at least one circumferential row of perforations~~(44)~~.

8. A smoking article~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim, wherein the filter~~(14)~~ further
15 comprises a first filter segment~~(22)~~ upstream of the flow restriction element~~(26, 26')~~ and a second filter segment~~(24)~~ downstream of the flow restriction element~~(26, 26')~~.

9. A smoking article~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim wherein the wrapper~~(20)~~ has a basis weight of between 35 g/m² and 60 g/m², a filler loading of between 20 percent and 50
20 percent by weight, a permeability of between 2 Coresta units and 18 Coresta units, and between 0.3 percent and 5 percent by weight of a burn modifier.

10. A smoking article~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim having a ventilation level of at least about 50 percent, preferably of at least about 60 percent.

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11. A smoking article~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim wherein the flow restriction element~~(26, 26')~~ is at least about 10 mm in length, more preferably at least about 13 mm in length.

30 12. A smoking article~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim wherein the transverse barrier~~(36, 36')~~ is concave relative to the direction of mainstream smoke drawn from the rod of smokable material~~(12)~~ through the filter~~(14)~~.

13. A smoking article~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim having a carbon monoxide to tar
35 ratio of less than or equal to 1.

14. A flow restriction element ~~(26, 26')~~ for inclusion in a smoking article ~~(10)~~ according to any preceding claim, the flow restriction element comprising:

a first integral tubular portion ~~(30, 30')~~;

5 a second integral tubular portion ~~(32, 32')~~ of substantially the same external diameter as the first tubular portion ~~(30, 30')~~;

a third central integral tubular portion ~~(34, 34')~~ located between the first and second tubular portions ~~(30, 30', 32, 32')~~, the third tubular portion ~~(34, 34')~~ being of reduced external diameter compared to the first and second tubular portions ~~(30, 30', 32, 32')~~;

10 a transverse barrier ~~(36, 36')~~ having at least one orifice ~~(38, 38')~~ provided therein, the transverse barrier ~~(36, 36')~~ being disposed between a first cavity ~~(40, 40')~~ at least partially defined by an inner periphery of the first tubular portion ~~(30, 30')~~ and a second cavity ~~(42, 42')~~ at least partially defined by an inner periphery of the second tubular portion ~~(32, 32')~~; and

15 one or more openings in a surface of the second or third tubular portion ~~(32, 34')~~ in communication with the second cavity ~~(42, 42')~~.

15. A filter ~~(14)~~ for a smoking article ~~(10)~~ comprising a flow restriction element ~~(26, 26')~~ according to claim 14.