

ABSTRACT**“EQUIPMENT AND METHOD FOR TESTING CIGARETTES”**

The equipment and the method for testing cigarettes according to the present invention are particularly intended to evaluate the ash flaking
5 by simulating the actions of a user during the consumption of a cigarette, comprising a mouthpiece or nozzle for insertion of a cigarette, attached to a hollow tubular arm associated to horizontal and vertical displacement devices, as well as an aspiration device for simulation of the inhaling action and a device for simulating the tapping used to release the tobacco ash by
10 means of percussion of the said arm. The said devices are pneumatically actuated, the said actuation being controlled by a programmable logic controller, such as a computer associated with driving means interfaces. The method further comprises the collection of flaking on a transparent plate, the scanning thereof by a scanning means, and the treatment of the
15 resulting data to determine the rate of occupation of the plate by the floccules released during the test.