

AEROSOL-GENERATING ARTICLE HAVING ~~A BIODEGRADABLE FLAVOUR-~~ GENERATING COMPONENT

The present specification relates to an aerosol-generating article comprising an aerosol-
5 forming substrate and a biodegradable flavour-generating component for imparting a flavour to
an aerosol inhaled by a consumer.

Articles in which an aerosol-forming substrate, such as a tobacco containing substrate,
is heated rather than combusted are known in the art. Such articles may be termed aerosol-
generating articles. The aim of such heated aerosol-generating articles is to reduce known
10 harmful smoke constituents produced by the combustion and pyrolytic degradation of tobacco in
conventional cigarettes. Typically in such heated aerosol-generating articles, an inhalable
aerosol is generated by the transfer of heat from a heat source to an aerosol-forming substrate
or material, which may be located within, around or downstream of the heat source. During
consumption of the aerosol-generating article, volatile compounds are released from the
15 aerosol-forming substrate by heat transfer from the heat source and entrained in air drawn
through the article. As the released compounds cool, they condense to form an aerosol that is
inhaled by the consumer.

Conventional cigarettes heat tobacco to a temperature that releases volatile compounds,
by combustion of the tobacco itself. A consumer of a conventional cigarette inhales the smoke
20 produced by combustion of tobacco, and any aerosol associated with the smoke. To modify the
flavour of the mainstream smoke or aerosol, it is known to provide cigarettes with single and
multi-segment mouthpiece filters that include flavourants, such as menthol. Menthol may be
incorporated in the filter, wrapped tobacco rod or aerosol-generating substrate of cigarettes in
liquid form using a suitable liquid carrier. Liquid forms of menthol are volatile and therefore tend
25 to migrate or evaporate from during storage and flavour the tobacco in the cigarette.
Alternatively, the menthol or other flavorant may be provided as a strip, a bead, or other means.

During consumption of a conventional cigarette, a line of combustion passes along the
cigarette. Menthol that has migrated to the tobacco is released as the line of combustion
passes. By contrast, heated aerosol-generating articles typically function by distillation of
30 volatile compounds from an aerosol-forming substrate. Much of the substrate is heated at the
same time and the volatile compounds are evolved. As flavour additives such as menthol are
highly volatile, these tend to be evolved and consumed earlier than other elements in the
substrate. Unless the menthol or flavour loading in the article is high, the flavour diminishes
rapidly as the article is consumed.

35 EP1889550 discloses a multi-component filter providing flavour enhancement. The filter
preferably has a length of between 24 mm and 48 mm and comprises a plug of cellulose
acetate tow having a central cotton thread loaded with liquid flavourant.

While it is well known to mentholate a conventional cigarette, the application of a menthol flavour, or other flavour, to an aerosol-generating article may not be as straightforward.