CLAIMS

1. A smoking article comprising a tobacco rod and a filter component, the filter component comprising:

   a filter segment of filtration material having a diameter measured perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the filter; and

   a flow restrictor embedded in the filter segment;

   wherein at least one cross sectional dimension of the flow restrictor, measured in a transverse direction of the filter segment, is at least about 50 percent of the diameter of the filter segment;

   wherein the flow restrictor is made from an air-impermeable, non-compressible and water-soluble or water-dissolvable material; and

   wherein the flow restrictor comprises a composition that promotes degradation of the filtration material;

   wherein the flow restrictor comprises a matrix made from a water-dissolvable material, the degradation-accelerating agent being dispersed within the matrix.

2. A smoking article according to claim 1, wherein the water-dissolvable material is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) , ethyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC) , hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (HPMC) , methyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol (PEG), polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, starch, sugar, and combinations thereof.

3. A smoking article according to claim 1, wherein the composition that promotes degradation of the filtration material comprises at least one of:

   one or more nutrients suitable for sustaining microbial growth;

one or more compounds adapted to initiate or sustain enzymatic or acidic hydrolysis of the filtration material;
one or more acids;
one or more acid salts; and
one or more bases.

4. A smoking article according to claim 3, wherein the one or more acid is selected from the group consisting of acetic, ascorbic, ascorbyl-2-phoshate, ascorbyl-2-sulfate, aspartic (aminosuccinic), cinnamic citric, folic, glutaric, lactic, malic (1-hydroxysuccinic), nicotinic (nician), oxalic, succinic, tartaric, boric, hydrochloric, nitric, phosphoric, sulphuric acid, and combinations thereof; or the one or more acid salt is selected from the group consisting of metal salts, where the metal is selected from aluminium, potassium, sodium or zinc, while the anion is selected from the group consisting of nitrates, dihydrogen phosphates, hydrogen phosphates, phosphates hydrogen sulphates, sulphates, and combinations thereof; or the one or more base is selected from the group consisting of metal hydroxides, calcium oxide (lime), urea, borax, sodium metasilicate, ammonium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, sodium phosphate tribasic, sodium hypochlorite, sodium hydrogen carbonate (sodium bicarbonate) and combinations thereof.

5. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow restrictor is surrounded on all sides by the filtration material.

6. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow restrictor is provided as a substantially spherical bead and the at least one cross sectional dimension of the bead measured in a transverse direction of the filter is the diameter of the substantially spherical bead.

7. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow restrictor is provided as a substantially cylindrical bead, the at least one cross sectional dimension of the bead measured perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the filter being the diameter of the substantially cylindrical bead.

8. A smoking article according to claim 7, wherein the cylindrical bead has a length of less than about 90 percent of a length of the filter segment.

9. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow restrictor has a compressive yield strength greater than about 8.0 kPa.

10. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the flow restrictor is at least about 6 millimetres from the downstream end of the filter.

11. A smoking article according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising tipping material attaching the tobacco rod and the filter;
wherein the tipping material includes a ventilation zone comprising perforations through the tipping material.

12. A smoking article according to claim 11, wherein the ventilation zone comprises at least one circumferential row of perforations located at least about 1 millimetre downstream of the centre of the flow restrictor.