CLAIMS

1. A filter element for use with a tobacco product or the like comprising: -

a filter body integrally formed from a net material, wherein the filter body comprises a plurality of internal channels randomly disposed therein, at least one of the plurality of internal channels is interconnected to another one of the plurality of internal channels to provide a plurality of aerosol paths,

wherein one or more of the aerosol paths extend from a first surface of the filter body to an opposite second surface for facilitating an aerosol flow along a longitudinal axis of the tobacco product, and one or more of the aerosol paths are arranged to direct heat away from the aerosol flow.

2. The filter element according to claim 1, wherein the net material for forming the filter body is selected from one of the following: an extruded plastic netting, a woven or knitted or braided open-mesh material.

3. The filter element according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the net material is formed from one or more of the following materials:- natural plant fibers; natural animal fibers; carbonized plant fibers, carbonized animal fibers; synthetic polymer fibers; natural resin material; synthetic polymer resin; any combinations or derivatives thereof.

4. The filter element according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the net material is formed from one or more of the following materials:- cotton; jute; hemp; bamboo fibers; bamboo charcoal fibers; wool; silk; nylon; polyester fibers; polyimide fibers; polylactic acid (PLA); polyethylene (PE); polyethylene terephthalate (PET); polyethylene ether ketones (PEEK); polypropylene (PP); polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE); polyvinylchloride (PVC); cellulose acetate (CA), starch based polymers, liquid crystal polymer material (LCP); polyacrylonitrile (PAN); polysiloxane or silicone; natural or synthetic rubber; paper; paper yarn; paper net; cork; carbon; graphene; any combinations or derivatives thereof.

5. The filter element according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filter body further comprises a filler material.

6. The filter element according to claim 5, wherein the filler material is formed from one or more natural materials.

7. The filter element according to claim 6, wherein the one or more natural materials are obtained from one or more of the following plant parts: - leaf, bark, trunk, fruit, seed, stem, flower, pollen, branch, root, sap, pulp, resin bagasse, calyx of the respective flora.

8. The filter element according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filter element comprises a secondary filter material.

9. The filter element according to claim 8, wherein the secondary filter material is configured in one or more of the following forms:- another natural or synthetic filler material, crushed or powder form, granule or pellet form, filament form, strip form, fibers or hardened fibers of any shape, threads, yarns, braided ropes, and flakes.

10. The filter element according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the secondary filter material comprises cellulose acetate (CA).

11. The filter element according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the secondary filter material comprises a sliced material.

12. The filter element according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the filter element is used in combination with one or more of the following types of filters: - filters formed from one or more natural or synthetic filler materials, fibrous tow filter, film filter, foil filter, mesh filter, fabric filter, fabric mesh filter, sheet filter, filament filter, spongy filter, laminated filter, wafer filter, honey-comb structure filter, extruded or moulded filter, paper filter.