CLAIMS

1. A polymeric insert for a smoking article ~~comprising a~~, the polymeric insert having ~~a~~ walls and being formed of a dissolvable polymeric material compressibility of less than ~~about~~ 100 N *per* 1.5 mm ~~and formed of a dissolvable polymeric material~~ comprising one or more water soluble polymers, wherein the thickness of the walls of the polymeric insert is between 0.2 mm and 2.0 mm.

2. A ~~smoking article~~polymeric insert according to claim 1 wherein the polymeric insert is shaped and configured such that the structure of the insert is no longer visible when the insert is placed in a closed container with water at 22 °C for 24 hours without agitation, the amount of water present in the container being ~~about~~ eight times the weight of the polymeric insert.

3. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to claim 1 or 2 ~~wherein the polymeric insert comprises~~ comprising one or more tubular portions defining one or more cavities.

4. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to any of claims 1 to 3 ~~wherein the polymeric insert~~ that is a flow restriction element comprising at least one transverse barrier having at least one orifice therein.

5. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to any ~~of any~~ preceding claim wherein the dissolvable polymeric material ~~of the polymeric insert~~ comprises one or more water soluble, biodegradable polymers.

6. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to any preceding claim wherein the dissolvable polymeric material ~~of the polymeric insert~~ comprises at least one of starch and polyvinvyl alcohol.

7. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to any preceding claim ~~wherein the polymeric insert incorporates~~ incorporating a flavourant material.

~~8. A smoking article according to any preceding claim wherein the thickness of the walls of the polymeric insert is between 0.2 mm and 2.0 mm.~~

~~9~~8. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to any preceding claims ~~wherein the polymeric insert has~~ having a flexural modulus of less than ~~about~~ 310 MPa.

~~10~~9. A ~~smoking article~~ polymeric insert according to any preceding claim ~~wherein the polymeric insert~~ that forms at least a part of a container ~~and~~ wherein the container holds a flavourant material.

10. A filter for a smoking article, the filter comprising a polymeric insert according to any preceding claim.

11. A smoking article according to any preceding claim including a filter ~~comprising the polymeric insert,~~according to claim 10.~~, wherein the filter is circumscribed by a filter wrapper and wherein the filter wrapper is fused to the outer surface of the polymeric insert by means of the polymeric material forming the polymeric insert.~~

~~11~~12. A smoking article according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 11~~including a filter comprising the polymeric insert,~~ wherein the filter is circumscribed by a filter wrapper and wherein the filter wrapper is fused to the outer surface of the polymeric insert by means of the polymeric material forming the polymeric insert.

~~12~~13. A smoking article according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 11 or 12 ~~including a filter comprising the polymeric insert,~~ wherein the filter further comprises a plug of filtration material upstream of the polymeric insert~~, and preferably a plug of filtration material both upstream and downstream of the polymeric insert~~.

14. A smoking article according to claim 11 or 12, wherein the filter further comprises a plug of filtration material both upstream and downstream of the polymeric insert.

~~13. A filter for a smoking article, the filter comprising a polymeric insert formed of a dissolvable polymeric material compressibility of less than about 100 N *per* 1.5 mm comprising one or more water soluble polymers, wherein the polymeric insert is shaped and configured such that the structure of the insert is no longer visible when the insert is placed in a closed container with water at 22 °C for 24 hours without agitation, the amount of water present in the container being about eight times the weight of the polymeric insert.~~

~~14. A polymeric insert for a smoking article, the polymeric insert being formed of a dissolvable polymeric material compressibility of less than about 100 N *per* 1.5 mm comprising one or more water soluble polymers, wherein the polymeric insert is shaped and configured such that the structure of the insert is no longer visible when the insert is placed in a closed container with water at 22 °C for 24 hours without agitation, the amount of water present in the container being about eight times the weight of the polymeric insert.~~

15. A method for forming a filter for a smoking article, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a polymeric insert compressibility of less than ~~about~~ 100 N *per* 1.5 mm formed of a dissolvable polymeric material comprising one or more water soluble polymers and the thickness of the walls of the polymeric insert being between 0.2 mm and 2.0 mm;

providing a filter wrapper;

wetting at least one of the polymeric insert and the filter wrapper through the application of water; and

wrapping the filter wrapper around the filter and into contact with the polymeric insert wherein the applied water at least partially dissolves the polymeric material at the outer surface of the polymeric insert and wherein the dissolved polymeric material adheres the filter wrapper to the outer surface of the polymeric insert.