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Subject: VANTAGE - R&D Weekly Status Report

Date: August 24, 1983

To: Distribution

From: R. L. Willard

I. VANTAGE 85 (SCS-III) Project Leader: S. E. Carter

- A cigarette paper change from 854 to 754 was implemented 8/11/83. This was done to reduce the tar to within ship limits.
- Dry line change from 5 mm. to 6 mm. was made on 8/15 to allow more dilution.
- L-test was made on 8/15/83 to compare 626 plug wrap and 70 M1 plug wrap.
- L-test was made on 8/23/83, testing 70 M1 plug wrap with current tipping.
- Increased tipping porosity tests were made 8/17/83. All parts have 754 cigarette paper and 6 mm. dry line.
- AFC was requested to increase weight 0.7% to 1.1% above the current average to help reduce tars. VANTAGE 85 (R-7795) has had low weight and draft since April.
- Topline results of the VANTAGE F 85 mm. Descriptive Test indicated that there is no perceptable product attribute difference between VANTAGE 85 at 10.4 mg. tar and 9.1 mg. tar.
- L-tests were also made to test tar versus hole depth.
- Filter efficiency was checked on current product versus product made in February. The February product was a 8.6 and the current product was a 10.8.
- VF "High Tar" Test Plan:

Two prototypes will be mailed out on 9/12/83. One product will be the high tar (10.4 - 10.8) quarantined product and the other prototype will be the new product (when that is decided upon). Topline report due 10/13/83.

II. VANTAGE Menthol 85 (SCS-III) Project Leader: S. E. Carter

- A cigarette paper change from 854 to 754 was implemented 8/11/83. This was done to reduce the tar to within ship limits.
- AFC was requested to increase weight 0.7-0.8% above the current average to help reduce high tars on this brand.

III. VANTAGE 100 (SCS-III) Project Leader: M. D. Trogon

- Phase III production continuing. Tars have averaged 9.6 mg.
- Phase II for the implementation of skip gap gummer will be repeated the week of 9/6/83 due to high tars (9.9 mg.). Phase III scheduled for the week of 10/3/83.
- MARC Discrimination Test and Phase I for on-line laser will be run in manufacturing the week of 8/29/83, with mailout date of 9/19/83. Pending NSD between the products, Phase III conversion to on-line laser is scheduled for 10/24/83.

IV. VANTAGE 100 Menthol (SCS-III) Project Leader: M. D. Trogon

- Phase III production of this product is continuing. To date tar has averaged 9.9 mg.. Effective the week of 10/3/83, VM-100 will be produced with V-100 tipping which has a higher porosity. This porosity increase should lower tar levels.
- Final results for Post Production (FT-4002) due w/o 8/22/83.
- Phase II and III dates for implementation of skip gap gummer to be determined.

V. VANTAGE UL 85 Menthol (Estron Filter) Project Leader: G. C. Smith

- Phase III commenced 8/8/83 with extended filter and on-line laser tipping. Tobacco weight increase made due to soft cigarettes. Tar currently averaging 5.5 mg..
- Currently rated as superior to Merit Ultra Lights Menthol 85 among target competitive smokers.

VI. VANTAGE UL 85 (SCS-III) Project Leader: G. C. Smith

- Product having extended filter and on-line laser to be mailed for Walker panel testing w/o 8/15/83.
- Post Production Test mailout date TBD. Product pick up in progress.

VII. VANTAGE UL 100 (SCS-III) Project Leader: G. C. Smith

- Phase III sign-off was held 7/13/83. Tars averaged 5.2 mg. through Phase III. Tar spec set at 5.2 mg..
- Post Production Test refieldded w/o 7/25/83.

R. L. Willard JB

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