

PRESS RELEASE - INGREDIENTS

Today, the major American manufacturers of cigarettes are providing to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) a list of ingredients added to tobacco in the manufacture of cigarettes. The list is being submitted in compliance with the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act which was enacted by Congress in 1984. The list does not identify the companies that use the individual ingredients, and the information contained on the list constitutes trade secrets entitled to protection under the Act.

American cigarettes have always contained the highest quality tobaccos, and non-tobacco ingredients are used mainly to enhance flavor and smoke quality. Some are used as moisturizers and flavor stabilizers. Others, such as menthol, serve to produce product differences and provide the basis for product preferences.

Many of the ingredients on the list have been used for decades in the manufacture of cigarettes, are widely used in food products, and have been approved after scientific review for use in tobacco products by governmental bodies in other countries. Most of the ingredients are used in very small quantities, and only 30 ingredients contribute nearly 90% of the total usage by weight.

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The cigarette manufacturers are not aware of any scientific proof that the ingredients used in domestic cigarettes pose any hazard to human health. In fact, two scientists who were extensively involved in the U.S. Government's programs regarding cigarettes made the following statement in a letter published by the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1979: "We know of no scientific evidence that today's additives increase the toxicity of cigarette smoke."

The cigarette companies understand that scientists from HHS will soon begin reviewing the ingredients included on the list, and the companies are ready to assist in the process.

[Further consideration should be addressed to identifying in this release an Industry spokesman who can respond to press inquiries].

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