

WHO STUDY GROUP ON TOBACCO PRODUCT REGULATION

Report on the Scientific Basis
of Tobacco Product Regulation:
Third Report of a WHO Study Group



**World Health
Organization**

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Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 Background	2
2. TobReg Scientific Recommendation: Devices designed for the purpose of nicotine delivery to the respiratory system in which tobacco is not necessary for their operation	3
2.1 Preface	3
2.2 Definition of ENDS	4
2.3 Types and distribution	5
2.4 Substances in addition to nicotine	5
2.5 Concern about lung delivery	6
2.6 Nicotine addiction as the basis for ENDS marketing	6
2.7 ENDS are not nicotine replacement therapy	7
2.8 Capacity of ENDS to serve as nicotine replacement therapy	8
2.9 Regulatory status	8
2.10 Other concerns	9
2.11 Conclusions	10
2.12 Recommendations for regulatory policy	10
2.13 Recommendations for clinical trials and other research required for regulatory approval	11
2.14 References	11
Annex 1. International regulatory measures for electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS)	13
3. Report on setting regulatory limits for carcinogens in smokeless tobacco	23
3.1 Background	23
3.2 Carcinogens present in smokeless tobacco	24
3.3 Tobacco-specific nitrosamines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	25
Table 1. Concentrations of tobacco-specific <i>N</i> -nitrosamines in selected smokeless tobacco products (µg/g dry weight of tobacco)	27
Table 2. Concentrations of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNA) and benzo[<i>a</i>]pyrene in smokeless tobacco products purchased in the United Kingdom and elsewhere	28
Table 3. Concentrations of tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNA) and benzo[<i>a</i>]pyrene in smokeless tobacco products sold in the United States	29
3.4 Differences in carcinogens present in smokeless tobacco by region	26
3.5 Targets for regulation	30
3.6 Selection of metric for regulation	30
3.7 Selection of achievable levels for tobacco-specific <i>N</i> -nitrosamines and benzo[<i>a</i>]pyrene in smokeless tobacco	32
3.8 Regulatory considerations and communication of regulatory values and testing results to the public	34

3.9	Recommendations	36
3.10	Acknowledgement	36
3.11	References	37
4.	Overall recommendations	39
4.1	Electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS): regulatory recommendations and research needs	39
4.2	Smokeless tobacco: setting regulatory limits for carcinogenic components	40

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Durban, South Africa, 12–14 November 2008

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1. Introduction

The fifth meeting of the WHO Study Group on Tobacco Product Regulation (TobReg) was held in Durban, South Africa on 12–14 November 2008. TobReg is mandated to provide the WHO Director-General with scientifically sound, evidence-based recommendations to Member States about tobacco product regulation. In line with the provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, TobReg identifies approaches for regulating tobacco products that pose significant public health issues and raise questions for tobacco control policy.

At its fifth meeting, the Study Group addressed regulation of electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco toxicants, ‘roll-your-own’ products, products marketed as cessation aids, particles in smoke and menthol. The meeting followed a WHO press release on 19 September 2008, which asserted that WHO does not consider electronic cigarettes to be a legitimate tobacco cessation therapy. The press release stressed that, as no rigorous, peer-reviewed studies have been conducted to show that electronic cigarettes are a safe, effective nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), there is no evidence to support marketing of these products for tobacco cessation.

This report presents the conclusions and recommendations of the Study Group at its fifth meeting on two products, both of which represent potential harm to public health and the promotion, sale and use of which are inad-

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