

**Evaluation of
Acetylpurazine
for Use as a Cigarette Ingredient**

September 2005

INTRODUCTION

Acetylpyrazine (CAS # 22047-25-2) is currently used worldwide at levels below **1 ppm** in selected in cigarette brands manufactured and/or distributed by Philip Morris International. This document is a review of current published toxicology information on acetylpyrazine abstracted from online toxicity databases.

TOXICITY DATA ON UN-BURNED MATERIAL

The following information was generated from the MICROMEDEX database tool <http://csi.micromedex.com> in September 2005, unless otherwise indicated.

Overview

Pyrazines are important contributors to the flavour of various roasted, toasted, or similarly heated foods. They are common constituents of foods and are thought to arise primarily from heat-induced condensation between amino acids and sugars through the Strecker degradation¹.

As a food flavouring additive, the material has been assessed under the provisions of the *Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, section 201 (s)*, by the Expert Committee of the USA Flavour and Extract manufacturer's Association (FEMA), to be generally recognized as safe (GRAS) under current conditions of use.

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives has assessed acetylpyrazine as presenting no safety concerns at current levels of intake when used as a flavouring agent. The daily intake is estimated at 2 µg/kg bw/day in the USA and at 0.2 µg/kg bw/day in Europe¹. It has also been defined as a flavouring substance which may be used as foodstuffs by the *Council of Europe* Committee of Experts on Flavouring Substances at an upper level of 5 mg/kg for foods.

Acetylpyrazine is a common cosmetic ingredient.

This material appears on the list of "Permitted Additives to Tobacco Products in the United Kingdom" (Department of Health, 2003) at a maximum level permitted for inclusion in cigarettes of 0.001 % w/w tobacco.

Acute toxicity of acetylpyrazine was measured in rats by gavage. An LD50 of >3000 mg/kg bw was reported¹.

A 91-day rat study showed a NOEL of 8.2 mg/kg bw. A single dose was tested¹.

TOXICITY DATA ON BURNT MATERIAL

Data on the toxicity of acetylpyrazine after combustion has been evaluated in a series of studies. The results of these studies may be found in the following references:

R.R. Baker et al., 2004, "An overview of the effects of tobacco ingredients on smoke chemistry and

¹ Safety Evaluation of Certain Food Additives and Contaminants, WHO Food Additives Series 48: Pyrazine derivatives. <http://www.inchem.org/documents/jecfa/jecmono/v48je12.htm>

toxicity”, Food and chemical toxicology, 42S:53-83. ****PEER REVIEWED****

E.L. Carmines, 2002, “Evaluation of the Potential Effects of Ingredients Added to Cigarettes. Part I: Cigarette Design, Testing Approach and Review of Results” Food and Chemical Toxicology, 40:77-91. ****PEER REVIEWED****

K. Rustemeier et al, 2002 “Evaluation of the Potential Effects of Ingredients Added to Cigarettes Part II. Chemical Smoke Composition” Food and Chemical Toxicology, 40:93 - 104. ****PEER REVIEWED****

Roemer et al., 2002 “ Evaluation of the Potential Effects of Flavor Ingredients Added to Cigarettes. Part 3. In Vitro Genotoxicity and Cytotoxicity” Food and Chemical Toxicology, 40:105-111. ****PEER REVIEWED****

P.M. Vanscheeuwijck et al, 2002 “ Toxicological Evaluation of Cigarettes without and with the Addition of Flavor Ingredients to the Tobacco. Part 4. Subchronic Inhalation Toxicity” Food and Chemical Toxicology, 40:113-131. ****PEER REVIEWED****

Gaworski et al, 1998, “Toxicological evaluation of flavor ingredients added to cigarette tobacco: 13-week inhalation exposure in rats” Inhalation Toxicology, 10:357-381. ****PEER REVIEWED****

Gaworski et al, 1999, “Toxicological evaluation of flavor ingredients added to cigarette tobacco: skin painting bioassay of cigarette smoke condensate in SENCAR mice” Toxicology, 139 1-17. ****PEER REVIEWED****

These studies indicate that chemicals used in the production of cigarettes do not increase the overall toxicity of cigarette smoke.

CONCLUSION

Cigarette smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other serious diseases in smokers. Smokers are far more likely to develop serious diseases, like lung cancer, than non-smokers. There is no "safe" cigarette. Government health warnings about smoking apply to all cigarettes, regardless of the ingredients added, including those containing only tobacco and paper.

While Philip Morris International has not conducted human studies on the health effects of ingredients used in cigarette manufacture, studies have been conducted using scientifically accepted in vitro and in vivo toxicity assays with various ingredient mixtures (see Toxicity Data on Burnt Material above). These studies show there is no meaningful difference in the composition or toxicity of smoke when the smoke from cigarettes with added ingredients is compared to the smoke from cigarettes without added ingredients. These findings are supported by similar studies from the published literature. It is our scientific judgment, based on the best available data, that acetylpyrazine used in our cigarettes does not increase the overall toxicity of cigarette smoke.