

**Evaluation of
Cocoa shells
for Use as a Cigarette Ingredient**

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INTRODUCTION

Cocoa shells (no CAS assigned) are currently used worldwide at levels below **10,000 ppm** in selected cigarette brands manufactured and/or distributed by Philip Morris International. This document is a review of the current published toxicology information on cocoa shells abstracted from online toxicity databases.

TOXICITY DATA ON UN-BURNED MATERIAL

Cocoa beans are the fermented and dried seeds of cocoa trees, *Theobroma cacao*. Cocoa bean shells are the hard thin outer envelope of the cocoa bean¹.

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 5.0 % w/w tobacco.

TOXICITY DATA ON BURNT MATERIAL

Data on the toxicity of cocoa shells as a cigarette ingredient has been evaluated in a series of studies. The results of these studies may be found in the following references:

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**

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

¹ Ullmann's Encyclopedia of Industrial Chemistry Copyright © 2002 by Wiley-VCH Verlag GmbH & Co. KGaA.

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 cocoa shells used in our cigarettes do not increase the overall toxicity of cigarette smoke.