# Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes in Canada

**Presentation by**
**François Damphousse, M.Sc.**
**Director, Quebec office**
**Non-Smokers' Rights Association**

**February 2007**

## LATEST AVAILABLE STATISTICS

**Cigarettes are the leading cause of deadly fires in Canada. Data collected by the Canadien Association of Fire Chiefs between 1995 and 1999 show that cigarettes were responsible for:**

- **14 030 fires**
- **356 deaths**
- **1 615 injuries**
- **200 millions $ CAD in damages (168 millions $ USD)**

MONTREAL
Outside metro area 70¢
The Gazette
SINCE 1778
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1996 57¢

# Coroner touts fire-safe smokes

## *In wake of fatal fire*

Quebec Coroner Cyrille Delâge has recommended the provincial government study fire-safe cigarettes following an inquest into a blaze that killed three Montreal children last August.

Delâge concluded that the fire in Pointe aux Trembles started after the children's mother fell asleep watching television while smoking a cigarette. Marc Côté-Lavrivée, 11, his brother Steve, 8, and his sister Eden, six months, were killed.

The coroner said the family's smoke detector was so badly destroyed that it was impossible to tell if it was working at the time of the fire.

He praised firefighters, who arrived

THE SATURDAY STAR

December 9, 1995

# Jury calls for fire-safe cigarettes

A coroner's jury investigating a City of York house fire death caused by careless smoking recommends that all cigarettes sold in Canada be fire-safe.

The five-member inquest panel found that Ann Babony, 68, of Ellins Ave., died Aug. 14 last year from smoke inhalation in a fire that started in her favorite stuffed chair.

Its verdict yesterday said damage to the chair was consistent with a smouldering fire caused by the careless disposal of a smoker's material.

The jurors said there are standards developed in the United States defining fire-safe cigarettes that could be studied and implemented here.

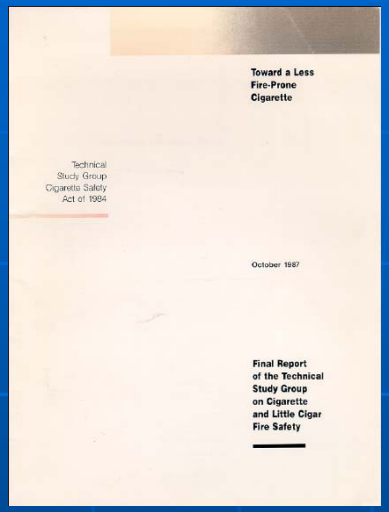
Both crown attorney Lori Hamilton and David Sweanor, a lawyer for the Non-Smokers' Rights Association, asked the jury to make the fire-safe cigarette recommendation.

Coroner Donald Blunt told the jury he supported the recommendation and said it had an opportunity to "begin the process in this country" that will prevent unnecessary deaths.

About 100 Canadians die annually from cigarette-caused fires, the inquest was told.

Tobacco companies can manufacture fire-safe cigarettes at no extra cost, Andrew McGuire, director of the Trauma Foundation at the San Francisco General Hospital, testified earlier.

## TECHNICAL STUDY GROUP REPORT 1984

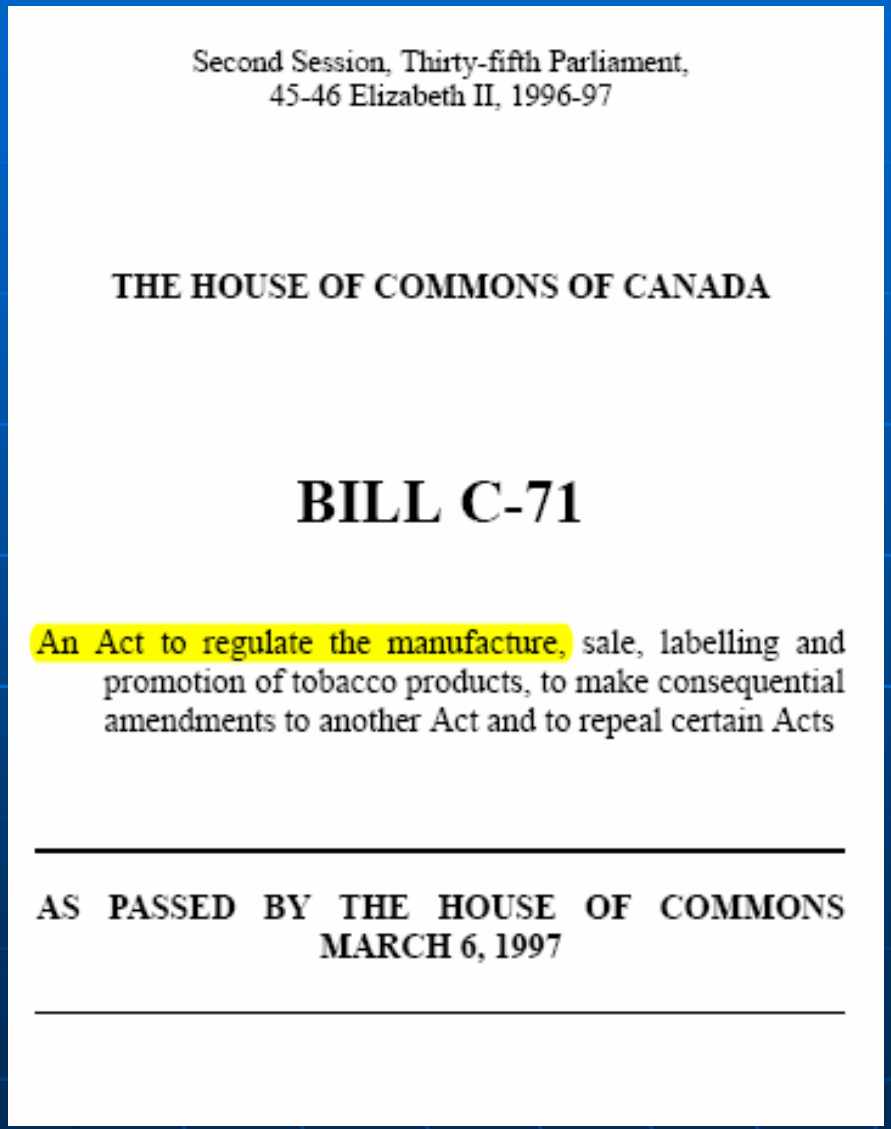



**"There are cigarette characteristics whose variations in the laboratory reduced the ignition propensity of the cigarette. These are: reduced circumference, lower density tobacco, less porous paper, and reduction of citrate addition to the paper."**

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP REPORT 1993


1. **the mock-up ignition method, which consists of igniting a mock-up of fabric and polyurethane foam**
2. **the cigarette extinction method, which checks if a cigarette can continue burning when placed on various layers of filter paper.**

# C-71: Tobacco Act



Second Session, Thirty-fifth Parliament,
45-46 Elizabeth II, 1996-97

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

## BILL C-71

An Act to regulate the manufacture, sale, labelling and promotion of tobacco products, to make consequential amendments to another Act and to repeal certain Acts

AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
MARCH 6, 1997

**In April 1997, the Canadien Parliament finally passes the Tobacco Act which grants the federal government the authority to regulate tobacco products.**

**"5. No person shall manufacture a tobacco product that does not conform with the standards established by the regulations."**

# STATE OF NEW YORK

The Metro Section

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1998

The New York Times

## 3 Firefighters Die Trying to Rescue a Woman in Brooklyn

By JIM YARDLEY

Three New York City firefighters who were trying to rescue an elderly woman from her top-floor Brooklyn apartment were killed yesterday when a fireball engulfed them as it swept through the narrow hallway, fire officials said.

The three members of Ladder Company 170 in Brooklyn fell to the floor and shouted, "Mayday!" over a radio. But fire officials said the concrete hallways acted like an oven, and the flames melted the oxygen masks off the firefighters' faces. Within a minute, the men succumbed to smoke inhalation and burns, according to the City Medical Examiner's office. Unbeknownst to the firefighters, the 67-year-old woman who lived in the apartment had already been pulled to safety by a neighbor.

The flames should have triggered a sprinkler system on the top-floor hallway, but Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen said the system had inexplicably been turned off. When firefighters tested the system hours after the blaze, Mr. Von Essen said, the sprinklers worked properly.

The building, at 17 Vandalia Avenue near Starrett City, houses low-income elderly people and is managed by the New York City Housing Authority. It was built in 1983 with money from the Federal Government. The hallway sprinklers are required by Federal regulations; city fire codes do not require sprinklers in residential buildings.

Fire officials were looking for Housing Authority maintenance records in hope of learning why the sprinklers had been turned off and to determine whether the required monthly inspections had been made. "It would have made a difference," said Commissioner Von Essen, stopping short of blaming the deaths on the sprinklers. He later added: "We're all dumbfounded. We can't figure it out."

The three deceased firefighters were identified as Lieut. Joseph P. Cavalieri, 42, Christopher M. Bopp, 27, and James F. Bohan, 25. By yesterday afternoon, firefighters at Ladder Company 170 on Rockaway Boulevard in Canarsie had draped their firehouse with black-and-purple-striped bunting, a century-old tradition memorializing deaths in the line of duty. Mr. Bohan had delivered Christmas presents to young patients at Brookdale Hospital Medical Center in Brooklyn just the day before.

Commissioner Von Essen said investigators were "85 percent sure" that the fire started with a discarded cigarette in the apartment of the woman, Jacqueline Pinder. As of early last evening, fire officials had not interviewed Ms. Pinder, who was listed in serious condition at Brookdale Hospital.

Six firefighters have now died on the job in New York City this year, and yesterday's deaths marked the worst loss of life since

Continued on Page D4

William Lopez for The New York Times

Members of Ladder Company 170 embraced each other outside their firehouse in Canarsie yesterday upon hearing of the deaths of three fellow firefighters who had been trying to rescue a 67-year-old woman from her 10th-floor apartment.

Joseph P. Cavalieri, 42. Christopher M. Bopp, 27. James F. Bohan, 25.

- **In August 2000, the State of New York became the first jurisdiction to pass RIP regulations for cigarettes.**
- **Since July 2004, all cigarettes sold in the State have to comply to the ASTM E2187-02b standard (American Society of Testing and Materials). Only 25% of cigarettes tested can burn their total length when resting on 10 layers of filter paper.**

**Fire Safe Cigarettes:**
**Preventing deadly fires caused by tobacco products**

**A report published in March 2002**
**by**
**the Federal Health Minister's**
**Ministerial Advisory Council on Tobacco Control**

1. **Health Canada [should] immediately request the tobacco industry to make all their cigarettes fire safe by ensuring that they self-extinguish within five minutes on a standard extinction test. ...**
2. **Should no meaningful response be received within thirty days, the government should initiate the preparation of regulations pursuant to Section 5 of the Tobacco Act along the lines proposed in the Background Paper (Section J.4). ...**

# C-260: An Act to amend the Hazardous Products Act (fire-safe cigarettes) Introduced in July 2002

Third Session, Thirty-seventh Parliament,
52-53 Elizabeth II, 2004

**STATUTES OF CANADA 2004**

**CHAPTER 9**

An Act to amend the Hazardous Products Act (fire-safe cigarettes)

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**BILL C-260**

**ASSENTED TO 31st MARCH, 2004**

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**The Hon. John Mckay**
**MP for Scarborough-Guildwood**

**Dr Yves Morin**
**Former Senator**
**Former Dean of Medical Faculty**
**Laval University**

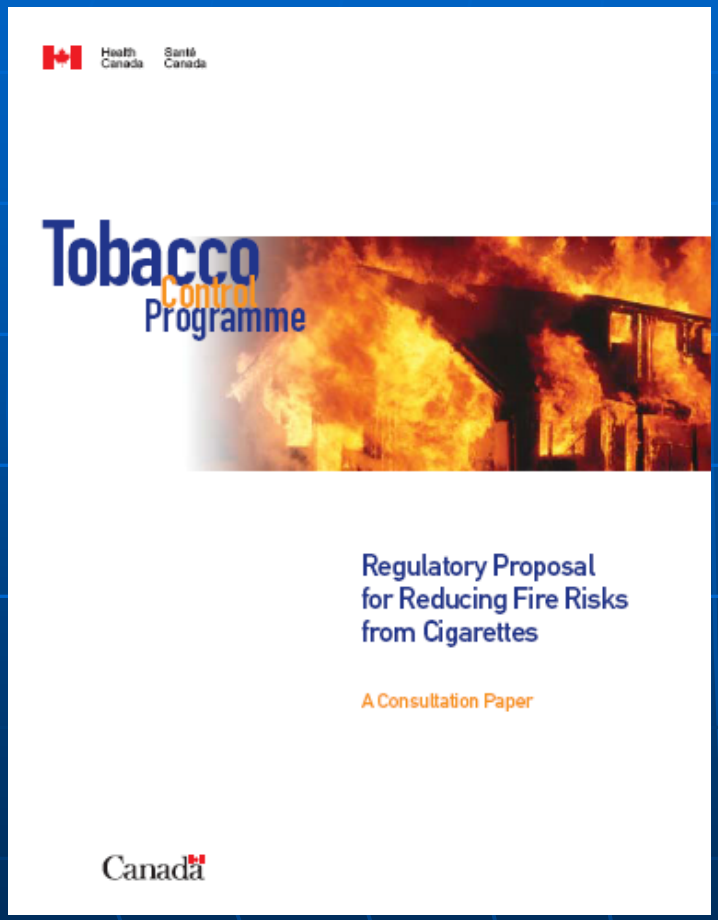
# C-260 : An Act to amend the Hazardous Products Act (fire-safe cigarettes)

- The federal governement was required to introduce a regulation under the Hazardous Products Act imposing a RIP standard for all cigarettes sold in Canada before June 30, 2004.

- If such a regulation was not passed, Health Canada had to submit by October 2004 to Parliament a report containing:

    - an explanation for the absence of such a regulation;
    - a timetable for the introduction of such a regulation;
    - a list of similar regulations currently in force in North America;
    - a summary of any scientific studies reviewed during the process of establishing the flammability standard for cigarettes.

# HEALTH CANADA LAUNCHES A PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN DECEMBER 2002




- 93% of respondents were in favor of regulations for RIP cigarettes;
- 40% of respondents indicated that it is the responsibility of cigarette manufacturers to ensure reduced ignition propensity cigarettes are not more toxic (30% did not express an opinion);
- 58% of respondents dismissed the idea that RIP cigarettes would create a false sense of security among smokers;
- 62% of respondents were of the opinion that the regulation should only apply at first to cigarettes.

## KEY INDUSTRY ARGUMENTS AGAINST RIP CIGARETTES

### 1. RIP cigarettes are more toxic

# Toxicological Characterization of a Novel Cigarette Paper

G.Patskan [1], F. Hsu [1], T. Meisgen [2], R. Stabbert [2], P. Vanscheeuwijck [3], and D. Veltel [2]
[1] Philip Morris U.S.A., Richmond, VA; [2] INBIFO Institut für biologische Forschung, Cologne, Germany; [3] CRC Contract Research Center, Zaventem, Belgium
Sponsor: R.P. Solana

PRIORITY

## Conclusion

Tests on cigarettes with a novel cigarette paper with bands showed that such cigarettes are less likely to ignite certain fabrics under specified test conditions than the same cigarettes made without this special paper. When the cigarettes were smoked under standard conditions, results of smoke chemistry analysis, cytotoxicity testing, genotoxicity testing, and inhalation revealed only minor, inconsistent changes.

**Philip Morris, 1999**

# KEY INDUSTRY ARGUMENTS AGAINST RIP CIGARETTES

2. Consumers don't like smoking RIP cigarettes
3. Consumers will buy contraband cigarettes

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company — Sensory Evaluation Division

Confidential Report

Author: Stacey Charles
Department: 775 / R&D Technical Support
Division: 565 / Sensory Evaluation
SED93, NO. 1908 [1910,1911]
Program: 222

Date: 8/6/93
Previous Report: NONE
No. Of Pages: 12
Client: Julie W Gee
Division: PRODUCT FORMULATION

PROJECT IP-SENSORY ACCEPTANCE

## CONCLUSIONS

The results also indicate that CAMEL LTS 85 smokers have an overall acceptance of blend variation prototypes similar to the control. The results indicate that the CAMEL LTS 85 smokers found no significant difference among the prototypes with different levels of ESP or among the prototypes with different levels of inherent porosity. Therefore, one may choose any one or combination of these design variables to use in the products to be used in the larger scale consumer acceptance study that is to be fielded during the month of October. The design variables can also be used in further IP prototype studies.

# KEY INDUSTRY ARGUMENTS AGAINST RIP CIGARETTES

## 4. Testing does not reflect real-life conditions

PROJECT TOMORROW 5A02

Objective: Develop valid test for cigarette ignition propensity

Results: Purchased and screened for cigarette ignitability over 50 upholstery fabrics out of a survey of over 200 fabrics from local fabric suppliers. Developed an on-the-spot pre-screening test for fabric ignitability that correlated highly with cigarette screening ignitability.

Assisted in design and development of conveyer belt large scale IP testing prototype.

Using this set-up, twelve selected design and TSG cigarettes (with a wide range of construction parameters and IP's by previous duck testing) were IP tested on the 4 ducks and a selected set of 19 upholstery fabrics, later reduced to 11 fabrics. Based on consistent results so far, we have reduced our testing protocol to 3 duck and 3 upholstery fabrics. We believe a reasonable protocol is evolving. Consistent relationships/trends have been determined for IP test outcome with cigarette parameters and very importantly with fabric properties. This knowledge is a step forward in understanding mechanisms of cigarette induced ignitions and modeling/predicting test results. It is also important in assessing the validity and relationships of IP tests on any given substrate(s). Testing was begun on banded cigarettes to determine effects of band parameters and spacing on test outcome on different substrates. These tests are done with random band placement, i.e., not selecting for band position.

**Philip Morris, 1994**

# KEY INDUSTRY ARGUMENTS AGAINST RIP CIGARETTES

## 5. Consumers will be more negligent

**PRODUCT RESEARCH REPORT**

BID: #91-94501 March 1, 1991

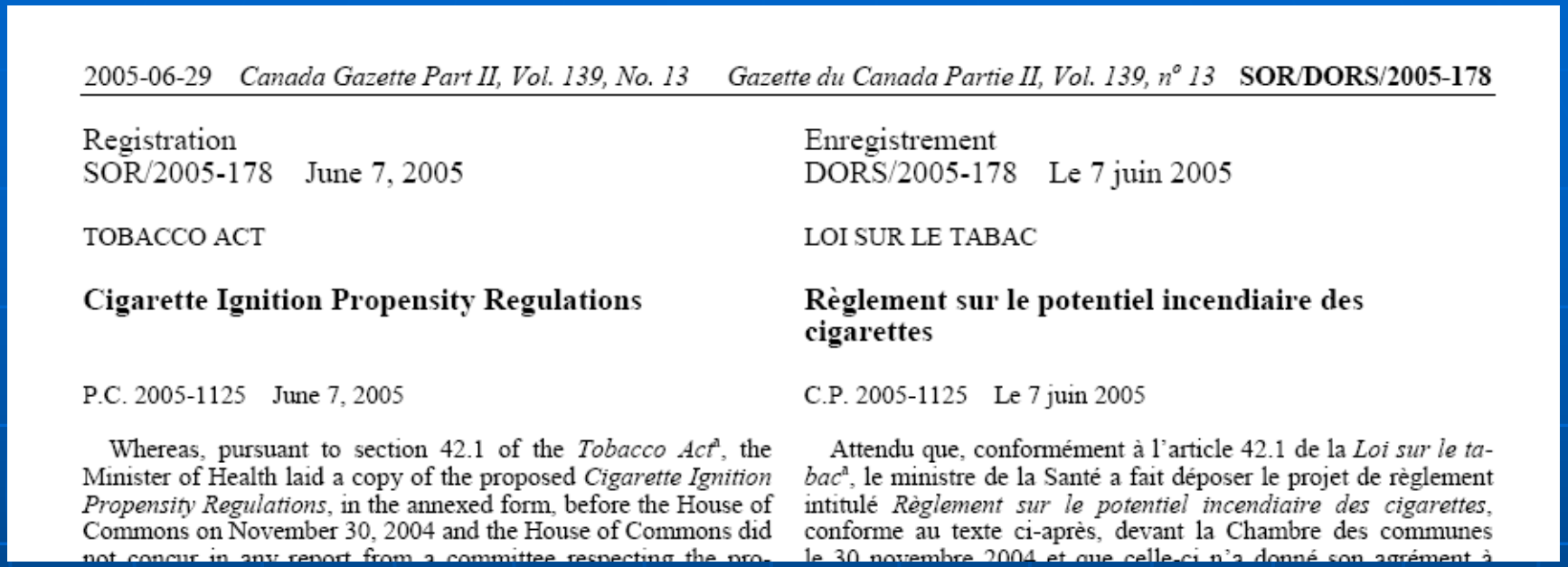
TO: Dr. Dave Townsend FROM: Ms. Anita Scism

PROJECT IP FOCUS GROUPS
(Conducted January 14 and 15, 1991)

**RJReynolds**

When asked if they would behave differently - that is less careful when smoking this new product - virtually all respondents said they would not alter their current smoking behavior. Most people said they would be just as careful with any cigarette, because it still could start a fire, or put a burn in upholstered furniture or clothes, etc. The main reason stated for people being just as careful was, once again, the fact that it says "less likely" to start a fire, which is not a 100% guarantee. "Fire causes fire" said many respondents, and even though this new product would be less likely to start a fire, "that's not good enough."

# Cigarette Ignition Propensity Regulations



2005-06-29 *Canada Gazette Part II, Vol. 139, No. 13* *Gazette du Canada Partie II, Vol. 139, n° 13* **SOR/DORS/2005-178**

Registration
SOR/2005-178 June 7, 2005

TOBACCO ACT

**Cigarette Ignition Propensity Regulations**

P.C. 2005-1125 June 7, 2005

Whereas, pursuant to section 42.1 of the *Tobacco Act*[a], the Minister of Health laid a copy of the proposed *Cigarette Ignition Propensity Regulations*, in the annexed form, before the House of Commons on November 30, 2004 and the House of Commons did

Enregistrement
DORS/2005-178 Le 7 juin 2005

LOI SUR LE TABAC

**Règlement sur le potentiel incendiaire des cigarettes**

C.P. 2005-1125 Le 7 juin 2005

Attendu que, conformément à l'article 42.1 de la *Loi sur le tabac*[a], le ministre de la Santé a fait déposer le projet de règlement intitulé *Règlement sur le potentiel incendiaire des cigarettes*, conforme au texte ci-après, devant la Chambre des communes

- **The regulations, introduced under the Tobacco Act, were made public on May 1, 2004.**
- **The regulations were reviewed by the Standing Health Committee in December 2004**
- **Parliament finally passed the regulations on June 7, 2005.**
- **All cigarettes have to comply to the precedent-setting New York fire-safety standard as of October 1, 2005.**

## BEFORE THE REGULATIONS CAME INTO EFFECT

### CIGARETTE IGNITION PROPENSITY REGULATIONS

The Department of Health has used ASTM method E2187 to test the ignition propensity of ninety-nine (99) brands of cigarettes sold in Canada. The brands tested were chosen to be representative of the Canadian market. The majority of brands tested were at around 100 per cent full-length burns. Ten brands showed some reduction in ignition propensity but only four were found at no more than 25 per cent full-length burns as is required by the standard.

# AFTER THE REGULATIONS CAME INTO EFFECT

**Denis Choinière**
Tobacco Control Programme, Health Canada

## Laboratory Results (2)

- 33 samples with FLBs no more than 25% of the time
  - That is, 72% of all samples pass
- For 10 companies, all samples pass
  - (about 95% of the licit market)
- For 2 companies, we have samples that pass and others that fail
- For 4 companies, all samples fail

# REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS STATEMENT

## Estimated Manufacturing Costs

To analyse the potential impact of the Regulations on the cigarette-manufacturing sector, a baseline model of the cost structure for a representative cigarette manufacturer was first developed. The results of this model indicate that total manufacturing costs (i.e. before operating profits and taxes) for a representative cigarette manufacturer are approximately $5.70 per carton. A two-part analysis was then used to estimate compliance costs: a modelled estimate and an estimate based on an industry outreach survey.

From this, the modelled estimate established the cost of compliance at $0.126 per carton, while the survey estimated it at $0.257 per carton[4]; this translates into annual costs of $26 million and $53 million, respectively. Using a discount rate of 3%, the present value ranged from $867 million to $1.77 billion, assuming the costs would remain constant in perpetuity. As is the practice, a sensitivity analysis was conducted on alternative discount rates ranging from 1% to 10%. Further details of this analysis can be found in the above-mentioned complete report.


IN JULY 1981 A FIRE CAUSED BY A CARELESS SMOKER BURNED 91 ACRES HERE. IT COST THE TAXPAYERS $35,000 TO PUT OUT THE FIRE. IT WILL TAKE 15 TO 20 YEARS FOR VEGETATION TO GROW BACK IN THIS AREA.
BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE