Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes in Canada

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

February 2007
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)
Coroner touts fire-safe smokes

In wake of fatal fire

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

Delage concluded that the fire in Pointe aux Trembles started after the children’s mother fell asleep watching television while smoking a cigarette. Marc Côté-Lavrè, 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
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.
“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.”

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.
In April 1997, the Canadian 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.”
• 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.
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

STATUTES OF CANADA 2004

CHAPTER 9

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

BILL C-260
ASSENTED TO 31st MARCH, 2004

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 government 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. Patakan 1, F. Hau 1, T. Malagen 2, R. Stabbert 2, P. Vanscheewijck 2, and D. Veltel 2
1 Philip Morris U.S.A., Richmond, VA; 2 INIBIFO Institut für biologische Forschung, Cologne, Germany; 3 CRC Contract Research Center, Zaventem, Belgium
Sponsor: R.P. Solana

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

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 conveyor 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: #01-94101
TO: Dr. Dave Townsend
FROM: Ms. Anita Slizm
March 1, 1991

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."
• 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
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; 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.