

Letter to the Editor

“Fibre and Particle Release from Cigarette Filters”

EDITORS - In 2002 a statement on the topic "Release of cellulose acetate fibres and coal particles from cigarette filters" was published by the former Federal Institute for Consumer Health Protection and Veterinary Medicine [Federal Institute for Consumer Health Protection and Veterinary Medicine (2002), "Release of cellulose acetate fibres and coal particles from cigarette filters", Statement by BgVV of 4th June 2002 (www.bfr.bund.de)].

Subsequently, the DIN national committee "Tobacco and tobacco products" has been asked by the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection for clarification of the current stage of proceedings on the topic of particles from cigarette filters. For this purpose a pre-normatively working ad hoc-group has been set up by which studies have been carried out on the number and dimension of inhalable particles released during the smoking process as well as on the characterization of dust produced during the industrial making of cigarettes.

The ad hoc-group has presented an extensive report (DIN Technical Report 160:2008-10-01 "Release of fibres and particles from cigarette filters") in which the question is clarified in a final manner.

According to DIN rules this report is regularly checked - at least every five years - by the responsible committee (national committee "Tobacco and tobacco products") with regard to its compliance with the state of the art where the revision and republication can be decided, if necessary. In this new edition all the latest scientific and technical knowledge which has meanwhile been published will be included. Further relevant information is available on the homepage of the Food and Agricultural Products Standards Committee NAL (www.nal.din.de).

Dirk Kostmann M.Sc.

Secretary

DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V.

Normenausschuss Lebensmittel

und landwirtschaftliche Produkte (NAL)

Burggrafenstrasse 6, 10787 Berlin, Germany

E-mail: dirk.kostmann@din.de