

Rationale for Establishing Tobacco Product Regulation

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WHO Strategy for Tobacco Control

- Preventing uptake of tobacco use
- Promote tobacco use cessation
- Protecting the public from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke
- Tobacco product regulation

TobReg - Background

- WHO Scientific Advisory Committee on Tobacco Product Regulation (SACTob) established in 2000
- The Director-General formalised the status of SACTob into a Study Group (TobReg) in 2003
- Has a mechanism to report to the WHO's Executive Board in order to draw attention of Member States to WHO's efforts in tobacco product regulation, which is a novel and complex area of tobacco control

TobReg - Objectives

- Advises WHO about scientifically sound recommendations to Member States addressing the most effective and evidence-based means to achieve a coordinated regulatory framework for tobacco products
- Based on cutting edge research on tobacco product issues
- Aimed to fill the regulatory gaps in tobacco control

WHO FCTC and TobReg

TobReg can assist the Conference of the Parties in the development of guidelines on tobacco product regulation:

- Regulation of the contents of tobacco products
- Regulation of tobacco product disclosures
- Regulation of packaging and labelling

Regulation of Chemical Products

Tobacco products

- Very few countries with appropriate regulation

Well-regulated other chemical products

- Drugs
- Pesticides
- Food additives
- Industrial chemicals
- Cosmetics

Principles of Chemical Product Regulation

- Comprehensive hazard characterisation through toxicological testing
- Exposure assessment (for existing products)
- Dossier submission to regulatory authority
- Data on hazard and exposure evaluated by scientific experts
- Acceptance/prohibition of marketing product
- Post-marketing surveillance of product safety

Complexity of Tobacco Product Evaluation

- Hundreds of constituents in unburned product
- More than 4000 chemicals in smoke of burned products
- Generation of chemicals in emitted smoke influenced by product's ingredients and design, and by how product is used
- Health effects can be determined as much by how the product is used as by its emissions, e.g.:
 - Pattern and intensity of puffing a cigarette influence the nature and amount of emissions
 - Number of years of smoking influences disease risk
- Products evolve rapidly

Laboratory Activities in Tobacco Product Regulation

- Laboratory capacity is essential to enable implementation of the WHO FCTC Articles 9-11
- Laboratory research to understand better the nature of tobacco products:
 - How they work and their effects
 - How they might be modified, e.g., by new ingredients and design
- Laboratory testing according to standardized methods to assess product performance

WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network (TobLabNet)

- Formally established in April 2005

Mandate of TobLabNet:

- Function as a global testing and research capacity to test tobacco products for regulatory compliance
- Perform research and develop harmonised and validated standards for contents and emissions testing
- Share tobacco research and testing standards and results
- Work on harmonised reporting of results

Initial TobLabNet Activities

- Performed global survey of tobacco testing laboratories and assessed capabilities of each laboratory
- Initiated round-robin testing exercise of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide in smoke to evaluate inter-comparability of results
- Will conduct training workshop for developing country public health scientists in order for them to learn tobacco control methodologies and skills

Main Items in Regulatory Oversight of Tobacco Products

Should include evaluation of:

- Who is using the product (existing users, former never users, children)
- Physical-chemical characteristics of the tobacco and tobacco smoke
- Uptake of toxicants (both by smokers and by non-smokers)
- Toxicity
- Addiction potential
- Disease risk

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