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**Note: Meeting to Review Pesticide Residue Testing**

**Programme, Europe 20.1.95**

**Introduction**

A one day meeting was held at Southampton to review achievements in this programme and to recommend future actions. Those attending are listed in the attached sheets, together with the agenda.

1. The current legislation concerning residue regulations for tobacco and products were reviewed together with the results of the testing programmes made on BATCo European blends over the last 3 years. A review was also provided to delegates on the current position on additive legislation.
2. Similar numbers of blend samples have been examined for residues for each of the 3 years, 1992-4 inclusive, and have covered the following production sources: Benelux including Wintermans, Finland, Spain (Canaries), Switzerland, UK. In 1994 tests on cigarette blends were concentrated on repeat testing through the year on representative blends for key international brands.
3. The main findings have been:
  - Products manufactured and sold by BATCo in Europe conform to existing well established residue regulations for tobacco, such as those in Germany.
  - Tests have been made for over 40 different pesticides, but only a few occur in detectable amounts in our blends. Those found most often are endosulfan, lindane, dithiocarbamates, maleic hydrazide and flumetralin.
  - In respect of both current and potential limits for tobacco and tobacco products, and the levels found in these tests, most attention is required to be focused on maleic hydrazide, endosulfan and dithiocarbamates. Of particular concern would be the enforcement of more recently introduced regulations in Italy and Spain.
  - Total resource for residue testing of tobaccos is limited in capacity. Contract laboratories underestimate the complexities of examining tobacco and in addition some methods in use can give variable and inconsistent results.
4. Attention has also been given to acquiring residue data on the leaf types and grades used in blends and arrangements have already been made with BATCF to share information obtained, including that from dealers, and to construct a data base which can be accessed by those

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with a need to know. Within BATCo., Operating Companies involved in leaf production are being required to provide residue data on each crop and this information will be included in the same data base.

5. Recommendations agreed at the meeting were:

- In 1995, sampling and testing on European blends should be at a comparable level to that in 1994 in order to provide continuity and confirmation of data. Small modifications will be made to the testing in order to optimise both value and relevance.
- Development of the data base on leaf residue levels is a priority in order for blenders and buyers to identify sources of residues, to be able to react to any emergent issue in a timely way and to identify short falls in information on particular grades and types of leaf.
- Limitations in methods applied to tobacco will require further development of control samples by BTC to be used for monitoring contract laboratory performance.
- Specific proposals on samples and costs for the contract work will be prepared by BTC for submission to the companies involved by end February.

  
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25.1.1995

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