

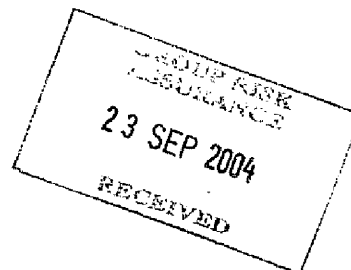
CTIT

Ground Floor Custom House (Annexe)
Lower Thames Street London EC3R 6EE
Tel: 0870 785 2817 Fax: 0870 785 3063
Email: blake.tanner@hmce.gsi.gov.uk



HM Customs and Excise
Law Enforcement

Nigel Espin
Gallaher Ltd
Members Hill Brooklands Road
Weybridge
Surrey
KT13 0QU



20 September 2004

Dear Nigel

Re: Urgent request for cigarette analysis, witness statement and customer information - CTIT Ref BT61/04A (DCIS 727124)

Please find enclosed clear plastic bag sealed with Customs seal number 0272087 containing 4 x 200 cartons Sovereign Classic cigarettes, associated wrappings, broken seal number 260045B, unused seal number 0272086.

These samples forms part of a seizure of cigarettes seized by officers in Coquelles on 14/06/2004. The origin of the goods is Czech Republic. The total seizure was 2,106,600 sticks made up of other brands also.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for analysis of the enclosed sample in order to establish where and when the cigarettes were made and for what markets. If, after analysis, all or part of the sample is found to be genuine, please can you provide details of those customers that would have received cigarettes displaying the batch codes shown. This information can be entered and returned on the Excel spreadsheet that accompanies the electronic version of this letter e mailed to you on 13 September 2004.

Please can you forward your findings in the agreed **witness statement** format to: TIM LITTLE, DOVER IPU, Priory Court, St Johns Road, Dover, CT17 9SH using Customs seal no 0272086 provided.

If any part of the sample is retained or destroyed, please ensure that the officer to whom the sample is to be returned is notified

If you have any queries or questions regarding the above request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

BLAKE TANNER

Enc