

13

Group Research & Development Centre,
British-American Tobacco Co. Ltd.,
SOUTHAMPTON.

KH/CAL/21C

EVALUATION OF A FILTRONA MANUAL TAPE
CIRCUMFERENCE GAUGE - PLASTIC TAPE TYPE
WITH DROP-WEIGHT TENSIONER

REPORT NO. T.125

7th November 1983

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14
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REPORT NO. T.125

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For some years Filtrona have supplied a tape gauge for measuring cigarette and filter rod circumference. These instruments used a tape made from steel.

They no longer supply this version. Instead, they supply a version which uses a plastic tape and, in addition, they have made changes to the tape tensioning system. However, Filtrona can still supply change parts for existing manual or automatic gauges.

Our evaluation of the two gauges showed that the new version gave slightly higher values of cigarette and filter rod circumference than the earlier version. Nevertheless, the new version can be recommended.

-1-

15

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TECHNICAL ABSTRACT

Filtrona have developed a new version of their tape circumference gauge.

In the new version, a plastic tape has replaced the stainless steel tape. The claimed reason for this was to prevent compression of soft cigarettes and, hence, prevent low circumference readings. A second change has been to the tensioning arrangement in order, they claim, to eliminate or reduce the drift found with the previous version.

Our comparison of the two versions showed that the circumference values obtained with the plastic tape version were slightly larger than for the steel tape version. The difference did not appear to be correlated with firmness.

The long-term drift could not be examined in this short evaluation; however, the day-to-day drift was slightly worse in the newer version than in the older version. However, the drift, which was small, can be considered unimportant since normal daily recalibration would eliminate the problem.

KEY WORDS

Filtrona
Cigarette circumference
Filter rod circumference
Measuring instruments

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