



## Dangerous chemicals — or not?

The eight chemicals among cigarette additives that are most questioned:

- **Megadiglycerolenes:** A flavoring that tobacco companies contend is found naturally in grapefruit juice and is considered safe by the food industry. The FDA couldn't confirm that.
- **Dehydroabietic acid:** A flavoring that tobacco companies say is found in peppermint and is considered safe by the food industry. The FDA couldn't confirm that.
- **Ethyl furuate:** Found naturally in coffee, dried fruit and peanuts. The FDA hasn't formally ruled on it, but the food industry reportedly considers it safe. A toxicologist last week said the chemical can cause liver damage in lab animals.
- **Maltitol:** A sweetener used in chewing gum and candy for diabetics. The food industry considers it safe, but the FDA hasn't ruled on a petition questioning its safety.
- **Sclareolide:** A synthetic form of a naturally occurring tobacco element. The food industry considers it safe.
- **Tobacco extract:** Used to boost the flavor of reconstituted tobacco. Contains a small amount of nicotine.
- **Ammonium:** A processing aid. The FDA considers certain forms of ammonia safe in foods but couldn't comment on the type in cigarettes.
- **Methoprene:** An insecticide that toxicologists say is biodegradable and works by stopping insects from growing to adulthood. Tobacco companies say the FDA allows it in dried fruits, but the FDA couldn't confirm that.

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PAGE 2 OF 19