

R J R I n t e r o f f i c e M e m o r a n d u m

Re: Absorption of Tax Stamp Ink Solvent

Date: November 30, 1984

To: Mr. Mark L. Raker
Brand R&D

From: J. T. Dobbins, Jr.
R&D Tech. Services

An empty carton and an unopened pack of CAMEL Lts. with manufacturing code "6 6 5 (8) October 84" and blue North Carolina tax stamps, along with an empty carton and an unopened pack of CAMEL Lts. with manufacturing code "6 4 12 (8) September 84" and black Florida tax stamps were submitted with the complaint of a terrible taste. A pack of control CAMEL Lts. was also submitted with no tax stamp ink at all; its manufacturing code was 1 0 1 1 0 4 October (Shift 8). The amount of ink soaked off the tax imprints into the carton flap was significant on both cartons.

The flaps were cut in pieces small enough to be placed in the "purge-and-trap" chamber. Any volatile material was swept away, trapped and analyzed by GC/MS. Both black ink spots and blue ink spots did yield an identifiable group of solvent components known as alkylated benzenes. Next, eight cigarettes from each unopened pack were removed and treated in an identical manner as were the flap spots. Finally, eight cigarettes from the control pack were analyzed.

The series of alkylated benzenes shown on Dr. Chung's attached memo was detected in both of the complaint packs and, further, this series was essentially identical to that shown by the flap spots. These compounds were not detected in the control cigarettes.

The circumstantial evidence is strong, therefore, that there is a correlation between an objectionable smoke taste and the use of excessive tax stamp ink.

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J. T. Dobbins, Jr.
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/bmg

Enclosure

Xc: Mr. J. A. Giles
Dr. Henry Chung