

revisions to the Federal Trade Commission methodology for determining tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide yields of cigarettes, and on a proposed format for disclosing the resulting ratings in advertising.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC" or "Commission") is extending until February 4, 1998 the deadline for filing comments on its proposed revisions to the testing method used to determine the tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide ratings of cigarettes, and on two possible formats for disclosure of those test results.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shira D. Modell, Division of Advertising Practices, Federal Trade Commission, Sixth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, (202) 326-3116.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 9, 1997, the Commission issued a notice proposing changes to the methodology currently used to determine cigarette ratings for tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide. See 62 FR 48,158 (Sept. 12, 1997). The proposed methodology would produce tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide yields using both the current testing parameters and more intensive smoking conditions, thus producing a range of potential yields for each cigarette. The Commission requested comment on those proposed changes to the testing methodology, and on the feasibility of generating the upper tier of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide ratings through mathematical formulas, rather than actual testing on a smoking machine. The Commission also placed on the public record two different legends that could be used in advertising to disclose the ratings and sought comment on the usefulness and feasibility of these potential disclosure formats. Finally, comment was requested on alternative approaches that were considered but not proposed by the Commission. The deadline for submission of the requested comments was November 17, 1997.

On October 29, 1997, the Commission announced that, pursuant to requests submitted by, among others, the Food and Drug Administration and the four largest cigarette manufacturers, it had decided to extend the filing deadline until January 20, 1998. See 62 FR 58,972 (Oct. 31, 1997).

The Commission has now received a request for further extension of the filing deadline from Prospect Associates, which serves as the Coordinating Center for the National Cancer Institute's Project ASSIST (American Stop Smoking Intervention Study). The

Coordinating Center and the 17 states that ASSIST funds seek this extension so they can incorporate into their comment newly available data relevant to the issues raised by the Commission's proposal, including new data from smoking machine tests conducted pursuant to a methodology promulgated by Massachusetts.

In light of the significance of the issues addressed by the Commission's September 1997 proposal, the deadline for submitting comments on that proposal is hereby extended until February 4, 1998.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission announces the revised thresholds for interlocking directorates required by the 1900 amendment of section 8 of the Clayton Act. Section 8 prohibits, with certain exceptions, one person from serving as a director or officer of two competing corporations if two thresholds are met. Competitor corporations are covered by section 8 if each one has capital, surplus, and undivided profits aggregating more than \$10,000,000, with the exception that no corporation is covered if the competitive sales of either corporation are less than \$1,000,000. Section 8(a)(5) requires the Federal Trade Commission to revise those thresholds annually, based on the change in gross national product. The new thresholds, which take effect immediately, are \$14,730,000 for section 8(a)(1), and \$1,473,000 for section 8(a)(2)(A).

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 23, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Mongoven, Bureau of Competition, Office of Policy and Evaluation, (202) 326-2879.
(Authority: 15 U.S.C. 19(a)(5))

By direction of the Commission,
Commissioner Azcuenaga not participating.

Donald S. Clark,
Secretary.

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Report of the Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 1249 Varieties of Domestic Cigarettes For the Year 1995

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission publishes the Report of the Tar, Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 1249 Varieties of Domestic Cigarettes.

DATES: January 23, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the report are available from the FTC's World Wide Web site at: <http://www.ftc.gov> and from the FTC's Public Reference Branch, Room 130, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. (202) 326-3222.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tonya Esposito, Legal Assistant, Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. Telephone (202) 326-3247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These are the most recent test results of the tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide yields of the smoke of domestic cigarettes reported by the FTC. This Report contains data on 1249 varieties of cigarettes manufactured and sold in the United States in 1995. The Tobacco Institute Testing Laboratory (TITL), a private laboratory operated by the cigarette industry, conducted the tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide testing for the widely-available domestic cigarette varieties. This testing was conducted under the review of a representative of the FTC through periodic unannounced inspections. TITL provided the results to the respective cigarette companies. The companies provided the data generated by TITL regarding their own brands to the FTC in response to compulsory process issued by the Commission. Cigarette smoke from generic, private label, and not-widely-available cigarettes was not tested by TITL, but was tested by the cigarette companies and the test results were provided to the FTC in response to compulsory process.

On September 9, 1997, the Commission issued a notice requesting public comment on proposed revisions to the testing method currently used to determine the tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide ratings of cigarettes. The proposed methodology would require that each cigarette variety be tested under two different sets of smoking conditions, rather than the single set used under the current system. The revised test method would produce tar,