



## **Japan Society for Tobacco Control**

**日本禁煙学会**

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### **Statement of Japan Society for Tobacco Control on so-called “new tobacco” products**

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- 1) **Such products contain nicotine, just as cigarettes. Accordingly, nicotine is contained in exhaled breath, resulting in a risk of acute myocardial infarction from passive inhalation.**
- 2) **Such products contain various carcinogenic substances, just like cigarettes. Accordingly, they entail the risk of lung, oral, stomach, renal and other types of cancer.**
- 3) **Unlike cigarettes, the harmful substances they emit are imperceptible. Accordingly, people in their vicinity cannot avoid the passive smoking that occurs as a result. This makes them particularly dangerous.**
- 4) **As resolved at the 6th meeting of signatory nations of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), smokers should be protected from health damage from tobacco smoke, and non-smokers should be protected from their exhalations.**
- 5) **Use of such products should not be permitted in any public spaces including bars or restaurants or means of public transportation.**

Recently, various tobacco products that do not emit smoke or which emit imperceptible smoke have been brought to market, resulting in concerns about their health risks. New tobacco products are mistakenly thought to be free of health risks or of risks of secondary smoke. However, they are just as addictive as cigarettes. They contain harmful carcinogenic substances that can cause harm to their users and the people around them.

New tobacco products include: smokeless tobacco (snuff, such as JT’s Zero Style brand), SNUS, so-called electronic cigarettes, and non-burning, heated tobacco (such as iQOS, Ploom).

Smokeless tobacco contains substances such as nitrosoamine and benzo[a]pyrene. Smokeless tobacco products such as SNUS are categorized as “group 1” (carcinogenic to humans) by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). In other countries there have been reports associating the use of SNUS with various types of cancer including oral and pancreatic cancer. There are also reports of other negative effects such as mistaken ingestion by children.

Formaldehyde (an IARC category 1 carcinogenic), acetic aldehyde (a category 2B carcinogenic) and irritants such as acrolein have been confirmed to occur in the vapor/aerosol of electronic tobacco products. There have also been reports associating electronic tobacco products with explosive accidents as well as secondary smoking (i.e., exposure to electronic tobacco aerosols).

Non-burning heated tobacco products contains about the same amount of nicotine as cigarettes, as well as carcinogens accumulated from the soil such as radioactive polonium and nitrosoamine arising from the tobacco production process.

Nicotine is an addictive substance that is designated as a deadly poison under the Poisonous and Deleterious Substances Control Act, with 40-50 mg being a lethal dose. Until the safety of the above products can be confirmed scientifically, they should not be used around other people. Of course, their use in public places should be prohibited.

### References

- Materials from 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Expert Committee for Evaluating the Health Impact of Tobacco (May 21, 2015) <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/shingi2/0000086477.html>
- Formaldehyde, other carcinogenic substances found in electronic tobacco (National Institute of Public Health) [www.health-net.or.jp/tobacco/pdf/tobacco\\_20150521\\_01.pdf](http://www.health-net.or.jp/tobacco/pdf/tobacco_20150521_01.pdf)
- US Department of Transportation prohibits use of electronic tobacco in airplanes due to concerns about effect on human body of dangerous chemical substances <http://www.traicy.com/20160306-usdot>
- 2015 Report of Public Health England [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/457102/Ecigarettes\\_an\\_evidence\\_update\\_A\\_report\\_commissioned\\_by\\_Public\\_Health\\_England\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457102/Ecigarettes_an_evidence_update_A_report_commissioned_by_Public_Health_England_FINAL.pdf)
- Summary of Results: Laboratory Analysis of Electronic Cigarettes Conducted By FDA (showing that nicotine, carcinogenic substances such as specific nitrosamines) and other chemical substances harmful to the human body (such as solvents and diethylene glycol, which is used in antifreeze) are contained in electronic tobacco. <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm173146.htm>
- *E-cigarettes affect cells*, NATURE, April 8, 2014 (showing that bronchial cells grown in a medium and exposed to electronic tobacco vapor closely resemble those exposed to cigarette smoke, indicating a genetic mutation) <http://www.nature.com/news/e-cigarettes-affect-cells-1.15015>
- [http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/20/2\\_Supplement/B16.abstract](http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/20/2_Supplement/B16.abstract)
- American Lung Association (E-cigarettes have nicotine added) <http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/e-cigarettes-and-lung-health.html>
- Resolution of World Health Organization on electronic nicotine delivery systems (COP6, Moscow Russia, Oct. 2014) [http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC\\_COP6\(9\)-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/fctc/PDF/cop6/FCTC_COP6(9)-en.pdf?ua=1)