

Visit to Imperial Tobacco Factory 14 March 2013

Department of Health (DH) officials accepted an invitation from Imperial Tobacco (IT) to facilitate a fact-finding visit to its manufacturing plant in Nottingham to see the manufacturing and, in particular, the packaging processes for cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco, and the machinery used. The visit formed part of the overall fact-finding procedures to assist in elaborating the impact assessment for standardised packaging of tobacco products.

All those present recognised the need to comply with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. To ensure transparency a note overviewing the visit would be agreed and made available on request.

DH officials visited the factory in Nottingham on 14 March 2013, those attending were:

[REDACTED] (DH Tobacco Programme official)
[REDACTED] (DH Economist)
[REDACTED] (DH Legal Services)
[REDACTED] (DH Tobacco Programme official)
Richard Ross (Imperial Tobacco Head of Political Affairs UK)
Colin Wragg (Imperial Tobacco Head of UK Corporate and Legal Affairs)
Zoe Walker (Imperial Tobacco Public Policy Manager UK)
David Arnold (Imperial Tobacco Production Manager Nottingham)

During the visit, DH officials also spoke to members of the production and engineering staff, who explained operational matters in relation to specific machinery and processes.

The visit included sight of illustrative examples of the range of products produced at the factory or by IT at non-UK factories, including packaged cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco.

DH officials saw the various stages of the cigarette making and packaging process, which included:

- primary processes such as preparing tobacco and mixing tobacco blends;
- secondary processes such as making filters;
- the manufacture of cigarettes;
- the different and complex machinery used at the various stages of manufacture and packaging and the specific requirements for those stages;
- the quality control procedures at all stages;
- the volumes of tobacco products produced on separate machines and overall volumes at the site;
- packaging of cigarettes into a range of shaped cartons, including the Glide-tec packets;
- packaging of individual cartons into outers; and,
- filling pouches for hand rolling tobacco.

DH officials took examples of the various different types and styles of empty packaging for reference purposes.