

FDA Center for Tobacco Products Update (December 23, 2011 – March 22, 2012)

The FDA Center for Tobacco Products (CTP) provides regular updates to inform the public and Congress on its progress in implementing the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (Tobacco Control Act). This summary is a highlight of activities and does not include all actions undertaken by CTP during this three-month timeframe.

March 2012

Webinar Series for Tobacco Retailers and Small Businesses

CTP continued its series of one-hour webinars on federal tobacco product regulations. These webinars provide education and information to tobacco retailers and small businesses, assisting them as they comply with FDA regulation. CTP hosted webinars in January, February, and March, with topics including FDA's domestic manufacturing inspection program, compliance check inspections of tobacco retail establishments, and warning letters and civil money penalties. All webinars in the series are archived on the CTP website.

- [FDA Tobacco Compliance Webinars](#)
- [2012 Archived Tobacco Compliance Training](#)

State Enforcement Program

In June 2010, FDA established the Center for Tobacco Products State Enforcement Program, which awards contracts to states and territories to assist with inspections of tobacco retail establishments. In this way, FDA ensures that tobacco retailers comply with FDA's regulations on youth access and tobacco product advertising. To date, FDA has contracts with 37 States and the District of Columbia and more than 50,000 retail inspections have been completed. More than 47,500 inspections show retailers in 28 states actively keeping tobacco away from kids. More than 2,400 warning letters have been issued to retailers and more than 90 Civil Money Penalty Complaints have been filed against retailers for violating the law. The date, location and results of all inspections are posted on the CTP website.

- [Tobacco Retailer Warning Letters](#)
- [Compliance Check Inspections of Tobacco Product Retailers](#)
- [Protecting the Public's Health: Infographic](#)

Tobacco Regulation Awareness, Communication, and Education Program

CTP released a funding opportunity announcement to launch its first cooperative agreement program – the Tobacco Regulation Awareness, Communication and Education Program. The purpose of the program is to assist communities to establish or expand health education and communication programs congruent with the Tobacco Control Act. The program will advance public health by supporting community-based tobacco education programs that support CTP's regulatory activities.

- [Tobacco Regulation Awareness, Communication, and Education Program](#)

Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) Report on Dissolvables

On March 1, 2012, the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee (TPSAC) completed its discussions of issues related to the nature and impact of the use of dissolvable tobacco products on the public health, including among children. At the close of the meeting, TPSAC submitted its final report and recommendations on dissolvable tobacco products to FDA, in advance of the March 23, 2012 statutory due date. The report is available on the CTP website.

FDA will continue to review all of the available science concerning dissolvable tobacco products and will take into consideration TPSAC's final report and recommendations in determining what future actions, if any, are warranted. The Tobacco Control Act does not set a required deadline or timeline for FDA to act on these recommendations.

FDA will also continue conducting research on dissolvable tobacco products, provide ongoing monitoring of adverse events related to these products to protect public health, and take any regulatory actions necessary under its authority, which includes reviewing new product applications and substantial equivalence reports.

- [The Nature and Impact of the Use of Dissolvable Tobacco Products on the Public Health: A Report from the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee](#)
- [Update from FDA on the Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee's Report and Recommendations on Dissolvable Tobacco Products](#)
- [2012 TPSAC Meeting Materials and Information](#)

February 2012

Public Meeting to Discuss Research Priorities

CTP hosted a public meeting on February 29, 2012, to discuss its research program priorities and its tobacco product regulatory research agenda with scientific and medical experts, as well as other interested stakeholders from the public and private sectors. Research is of the utmost importance to CTP as it focuses its efforts on reducing initiation of tobacco use, especially among youth; reducing tobacco product harms; and encouraging those who already use tobacco products to quit. CTP's research priorities include the following:

- Understanding the diversity of tobacco products
- Reducing addiction to tobacco products
- Reducing toxicity and carcinogenicity of tobacco products and smoke
- Understanding the adverse health consequences of tobacco use
- Understanding consumer and public perceptions about tobacco products and how they are marketed
- Understanding how economics and policies affect tobacco product use

The meeting webcast is archived on the CTP website.

- [FDA Center for Tobacco Products Research Program: Expanding the Research Base for Tobacco Product Regulation](#)

Content Syndication Launch

In February 2012, CTP launched website content syndication to expand the dissemination of FDA's public health and regulatory content to stakeholders, including the general public. Content syndication is a free and easy way for others to include information about tobacco regulation on their websites.

- [Bring FDA Tobacco Content to Your Website for Free](#)
- [Content Syndication Storefront](#)

January 2012

Update on FDA's Review of the Science Related to Menthol

In January, FDA issued an update to stakeholders and the public about FDA's review of the science related to menthol. FDA independently reviewed all of the available science on the impact of menthol in cigarettes and drafted a report. After receiving feedback from external scientists, FDA is revising its report and will make the final report available for public comment in the Federal Register. In addition, FDA will post the scientists' feedback on the draft report as well as FDA's response to the feedback.

The public comments received in response to FDA's final report may provide additional evidence or emerging data related to menthol. FDA will consider these comments in addition to the information from its final report, from the TPSAC report and public comments, and from the industry perspective document when considering possible actions related to the public health impact of menthol in cigarettes.

- [Menthol: Update on FDA's Review of the Science](#)

December 2011

Break the Chain of Tobacco Addiction Pledge

CTP continued to encourage retailers and community members to take the pledge to support responsible tobacco retailing and exceeded the goal it set: 500 pledges by January 1, 2012.

- [Take the Pledge to Protect Kids from Tobacco Products](#)