

September 20, 2019

**SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT**

Philip Morris USA, Inc.  
ATTENTION: Rebecca A. Rivas, Senior Director, Regulatory Submissions  
Altria Client Service LLC  
2325 Bells Road  
Richmond, VA 23234

**FDA Submission Tracking Numbers (STNs): MULTIPLE STNs, SEE APPENDIX A**

Dear Ms. Rivas:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) completed review of your Reports Preceding Introduction of Certain Substantially Equivalent Products into Interstate Commerce (SE Reports), submitted under section 905(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), for the tobacco products specified in Appendix A.

Based on our review of your SE Reports, we find the new tobacco products are in compliance with the requirements of the FD&C Act and substantially equivalent to the corresponding eligible predicate tobacco products,<sup>1</sup> specified in Appendix A.

Under the provisions of section 910 and 905(j) of the FD&C Act, you may introduce, or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce the products specified in Appendix A.

To fulfill the provisions of section 910(a)(4) of the FD&C Act, you opted not to provide an adequate summary of any health information related to the new tobacco products with your application, but stated that such information will be available upon request by any person. Consistent with the requirements of Section 910(a)(4), you may wish to consider providing the following when information is requested:

- A. A copy of your final SE Reports upon which our order was based, redacted only to the extent necessary to exclude patient identifiers, and trade secret and confidential commercial information as defined in 21 CFR § 20.61 and 20.63 and;
- B. Any research or data you have in your possession or otherwise know of specifically regarding the adverse health effects of the new tobacco product or the following statement if such statement is accurate: “[Insert manufacturer name] does not have or know of any research or data regarding any adverse health effects specifically related to [insert tobacco product name]”.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to comparing the new tobacco product to the predicate tobacco products named by the applicant, FDA also compared the new tobacco product in SE0015296 and SE0015331 to the grandfathered tobacco products in SE0014912 and SE0012338, respectively. Although the new product has different characteristics than the grandfathered tobacco products in SE0014912 and SE0012338 FDA found that those differences do not cause the new tobacco product to raise different questions of public health, and thus the new tobacco product is also substantially equivalent to the grandfathered products in SE0014912 and SE0012338.

Alternatively, you may provide the following when information is requested:

- A. Description of the new tobacco products;
- B. Description of the predicate tobacco products;
- C. List of all differences in characteristics between the predicate and new tobacco products;
- D. Summary of the evidence and scientific rationale concerning why the differences in characteristics do not raise different questions of public health; and
- E. Any research or data you have in your possession or otherwise know of regarding the adverse health effects of the new tobacco product or the following statement if such statement is accurate: “[Insert manufacturer name] does not have or know of any research or data regarding any adverse health effects specifically related to [insert tobacco product name]”.

There may be other accurate, complete and not false or misleading ways to satisfy the requirements of Section 910(a)(4) not included above. If you wish to discuss other ways to meet the requirements of 910(a)(4), submit a meeting request to FDA.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6, we will make your environmental assessment publicly available.

It is important to note our finding of substantial equivalence for your new tobacco products to an appropriate predicate tobacco product permits marketing of your new tobacco products<sup>1</sup>. Our finding does not mean FDA “approved” the new products specified in Appendix A; therefore, you may not promote or in any way represent the new tobacco products specified in Appendix A, or the labeling, as being “approved” by FDA. See Section 301(tt) of the FD&C Act.

The finding that your products are substantially equivalent to the predicate products is based upon the information you provided in your SE Reports and the standards contained in the FD&C Act, Section 910(a)(3). These marketing orders are subject to reconsideration, with notice to the manufacturer, and rescission to the extent authorized by law.

We remind you that all regulated tobacco products, including the new tobacco products specified in Appendix A, are subject to the requirements of Chapter IX of the FD&C Act and its regulations. These requirements currently include, but are not limited to, annual registration, listing of products, listing of ingredients, reporting of harmful and potentially harmful constituents, and payment of user fees. There are also labeling and advertising requirements with which you must comply. It is your responsibility to ensure that the tobacco products specified in Appendix A comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, including those which may be forthcoming. FDA will monitor your compliance with these applicable statutes and regulations.

For more information on your responsibilities under the FD&C Act, we encourage you to visit our website at <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products>. You may also obtain information by contacting FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products at 1-877-CTP-1373, [AskCTP@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:AskCTP@fda.hhs.gov), or [SmallBiz.Tobacco@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:SmallBiz.Tobacco@fda.hhs.gov).

We encourage you to submit all regulatory correspondence electronically via the CTP Portal (<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/manufacturing/submit-documents-ctp-portal>)<sup>2</sup> using eSubmitter (<https://www.fda.gov/industry/fda-esubmitter>). Alternatively, submissions may be mailed to:

Food and Drug Administration  
Center for Tobacco Products  
Document Control Center (DCC)  
Building 71, Room G335  
10903 New Hampshire Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

The CTP Portal and the FDA Electronic Submission Gateway (ESG) are generally available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; if the upload is successful, submissions are considered received by DCC on the day of upload. Submissions delivered to DCC by courier or physical mail will be considered timely if received during delivery hours on or before the due date (see <https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/about-center-tobacco-products-ctp/contact-ctp>); if the due date falls on a weekend or holiday the delivery must be received on or before the preceding business day. We are unable to accept regulatory submissions by e-mail.

If you have any questions, you may contact Pin Zhang, Ph.D., Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (240) 402 - 0997 or [Pin.Zhang@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Pin.Zhang@fda.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Glen D. Jones -S  
Date: 2019.09.20 14:27:36 -04'00'

For Matthew R. Holman, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Science  
Center for Tobacco Products

Enclosure- Appendix A: List of New Tobacco Products Subject of This Letter

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<sup>2</sup> The FDA's Electronic Submission Gateway (ESG) is still available as an alternative to the CTP Portal.

## Appendix A

List of new tobacco products that FDA has determined are substantially equivalent when compared to its corresponding predicate tobacco product.

<b>Common Attributes of SE Reports</b>	
<b>Date of Submission:</b>	June 28, 2019
<b>Date of Receipt:</b>	June 28, 2019
<b>Product Manufacturer:</b>	Philip Morris USA Inc
<b>Product Category:</b>	Cigarettes
<b>Product Sub-Category:</b>	Combusted, Filtered
<b>New Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
<b>Submission Tracking Number</b>	SE0015287
<b>Product Name:<sup>3</sup></b>	Virginia Slims Superslims Menthol Box
<b>Package Type:</b>	Hard Pack
<b>Package Quantity:</b>	20 Cigarettes
<b>Length:</b>	98.5 mm
<b>Diameter:<sup>4</sup></b>	5.41 mm
<b>Ventilation:</b>	70%
<b>Characterizing Flavor:</b>	Menthol
<b>Predicate Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
<b>Product Name:<sup>3</sup></b>	Virginia Slims Superslims Menthol 100's Box
<b>Package Type:</b>	Hard Pack
<b>Package Quantity:</b>	20 Cigarettes
<b>Length:</b>	98.5 mm
<b>Diameter:<sup>4</sup></b>	5.41 mm
<b>Ventilation:</b>	70%
<b>Characterizing Flavor:</b>	Menthol
<b>Eligibility Status:</b>	Grandfathered
<b>New Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
<b>Submission Tracking Number</b>	SE0015288
<b>Product Name:<sup>3</sup></b>	Virginia Slims Superslims Box
<b>Package Type:</b>	Hard pack
<b>Package Quantity:</b>	20 Cigarettes
<b>Length:</b>	98.5 mm
<b>Diameter:<sup>4</sup></b>	5.41 mm
<b>Ventilation:</b>	70%
<b>Characterizing Flavor:</b>	None
<b>Predicate Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
<b>Product Name:<sup>3</sup></b>	Virginia Slims Superslims 100's Box
<b>Package Type:</b>	Hard Pack
<b>Package Quantity:</b>	20 Cigarettes
<b>Length:</b>	98.5 mm
<b>Diameter:<sup>4</sup></b>	5.41 mm
<b>Ventilation:</b>	70%
<b>Characterizing Flavor:</b>	None
<b>Eligibility Status:</b>	Grandfathered

<sup>3</sup> Brand/sub-brand or other commercial name used in commercial distribution.

<sup>4</sup> The applicant submitted the circumference which allowed for a calculation of diameter.

<b>Common Attributes of SE Reports</b>	
Date of Submission:	June 28, 2019
Date of Receipt:	June 28, 2019
Product Manufacturer:	Philip Morris USA Inc
Product Category:	Cigarettes
Product Sub-Category:	Combusted, Filtered
<b>New Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Submission Tracking Number	SE0015289
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Virginia Slims Menthol Gold Pack 120 Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	119.5 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.32 mm
Ventilation:	30%
Characterizing Flavor:	Menthol
<b>Predicate Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Virginia Slims Luxury Lights 120's Menthol Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	119.5 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.32 mm
Ventilation:	30%
Characterizing Flavor:	Menthol
Eligibility Status:	Grandfathered
<b>New Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Submission Tracking Number	SE0015294
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Virginia Slims Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	98 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.32 mm
Ventilation:	23%
Characterizing Flavor:	None
<b>Predicate Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Virginia Slims 100's Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	98 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.32 mm
Ventilation:	23%
Characterizing Flavor:	None
Eligibility Status:	Grandfathered

<b>Common Attributes of SE Reports</b>	
Date of Submission:	June 28, 2019
Date of Receipt:	June 28, 2019
Product Manufacturer:	Philip Morris USA Inc
Product Category:	Cigarettes
Product Sub-Category:	Combusted, Filtered
<b>New Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Submission Tracking Number	SE0015296
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Merit Blue Pack 100's Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	98.5 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.89 mm
Ventilation:	55%
Characterizing Flavor:	None
<b>Predicate Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Merit Blue Pack 100's Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	98.5 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.89 mm
Ventilation:	55%
Characterizing Flavor:	None
Eligibility Status:	Previously Found SE Under SE0014912
<b>New Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Submission Tracking Number	SE0015331
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Basic Menthol Box
Package Type:	Hard Pack
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	83 mm
Diameter:	7.89 mm
Ventilation:	0%
Characterizing Flavor:	Menthol
<b>Predicate Tobacco Product Specific Attributes</b>	
Product Name: <sup>3</sup>	Basic Menthol Box
Package Type:	Box
Package Quantity:	20 Cigarettes
Length:	83 mm
Diameter: <sup>4</sup>	7.89 mm
Ventilation:	0%
Characterizing Flavor:	Menthol
Eligibility Status:	Previously Found SE Under SE0012338