



# Interoffice Memorandum

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Subject: Cellulose Acetate Degradability

Date: 2/24/93

To: Joe Inman

From: Sharon Dunlap

Dr. Lance Deutch (Celanese) presented the results of Celanese studies on the "degradability" of cellulose acetate (CA) filters to the Paper Filter Team.

## CONCLUSIONS:

1. CA cigarette filters are degradable under certain conditions.
2. The physical form of the sample, the manner in which it is exposed, and the conditions under which it is exposed all contribute to the rate of degradation observed.
3. Due to the variability of test methods, conditions, and sample forms used in previous work, it is not possible at this time to accurately predict how long it takes a cigarette filter to degrade.
4. Based on the results from U. S. Testing, it is possible that conditions exist which would allow the tow portion of a cigarette filter to remain essentially intact for several years.

Dr. Deutch also informed us that a CORESTA Task Force was set up on cigarette butt degradability, with the following objective:

**To develop a standard test for measuring cigarette butt degradability. The test should be meaningful in that it encompasses the variety of environmental conditions in which cigarette butts are disposed.**

This Task Force will also define degradability. They will only evaluate commercially available filters (CA, polypropylene and paper).

P. S. Dennis Hogan (Celanese Tech. Rep.) said that RJR has agreed to let Celanese "have" our tow for their Waste Tow Reuse Program. Celanese is currently scaling up their process.