

New book on pig products reveals problems for Islamic, Jewish and vegetarian smokers.

A new book exploring the many and varied uses of pigs after slaughter has revealed that haemoglobin from pig blood is used in the production of cigarette filters.

The book, *Pig 05049*, by Dutch author Ms Christien Meindertsma, reveals 185 different uses to which a dead pig can be put -- from the manufacture of sweets and shampoo, to bread, body lotion, beer and bullets. But the revelation that pig haemoglobin is used in cigarette filters to create an "artificial lung" that supposedly lessens harmful chemicals reaching the smoker is set to re-open the issue about the failure of the tobacco industry to reveal what additives and ingredients are used in cigarettes.

Professor Simon Chapman from the University of Sydney's School of Public Health said that Australian smokers would have no way of finding out whether locally manufactured or imported cigarette filters contained material sourced from pig haemoglobin: "Many devout Islamic and Jewish smokers and some vegetarians would be horrified to think they were putting a filter in their mouth which contained a pig product."

The tobacco industry can put anything legal in its products with no obligation to inform either the government or consumers. It voluntarily declares certain ingredients on unpublicised websites but each brand has a catch-all qualifying statement saying "Processing aids and preservatives that are not significantly present in, and do not functionally affect, the finished product are grouped as "processing aids". The details of the materials in these "processing aids" are well-kept trade secrets.

"Smokers who do not want to use pig products are entitled to be told whether Australian cigarettes have pig products included in these "processing aids" Professor Chapman said. "The tobacco industry has a decades-long history of keeping its customers ignorant about what it is they are buying. There is not just tobacco in a cigarette."

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Further information:

<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/185+THINGS+TO+DO+WITH+A+PIG%3B+From+bullets+to+bread+and+beer,+...-a0208935993>

<http://www.christienmeindersma.com/index.php?/books/pig-05049/>

Chapman S, Carter SM, Byrne F. "**Keep a low profile**": pesticide residue and additives in Australian tobacco. [Tobacco Control](#) 2003 ; 12 (Suppl 3): iii45-iii53.

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