(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) **EP 4 388 904 A3**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
25.09.2024 Bulletin 2024/39

(43) Date of publication A2:
26.06.2024 Bulletin 2024/26

(21) Application number: **24174746.8**

(22) Date of filing: **23.09.2019**

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
A24F 47/00 *(2020.01)*

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
A24F 40/57; A24F 40/20; A24F 40/46

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR

(30) Priority: **24.09.2018 GB 201815522**

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
19780182.2 / 3 855 965

(71) Applicant: **Imperial Tobacco Limited**
Bristol, BS3 2LL (GB)

(72) Inventors:
- **Ferrie, Kate**
  Bristol, BS3 2LL (GB)
- **Shenton, Edward Ross**
  Bristol, BS3 2LL (GB)
- **Lord, Christopher**
  Bristol, BS3 2LL (GB)
- **Benyezzar, Med**
  Bristol, BS3 2LL (GB)

(74) Representative: **Mewburn Ellis LLP**
Aurora Building
Counterslip
Bristol BS1 6BX (GB)

(54) **SMOKING SUBSTITUTE DEVICE**

(57) The present disclosure relates to the field of smoking tobacco. In particular, the present disclosure relates to smoking substitute systems and particularly, although not exclusively, to a heat-not-burn (HNB) smoking substitute system. Further in particular, the present disclosure relates to a smoking substitute system having at least two different modes of operation. Accordingly, there is provided a smoking substitute device (10) comprising a heating element (12), wherein the smoking substitute device (10) is adapted for receiving a smoking substitute consumable (20), wherein the heating element (12) is adapted for heating the smoking substitute consumable (20), wherein the smoking substitute device (10) comprises at least two modes of operation and wherein the smoking substitute device (10) is a heat-not-burn smoking substitute device.

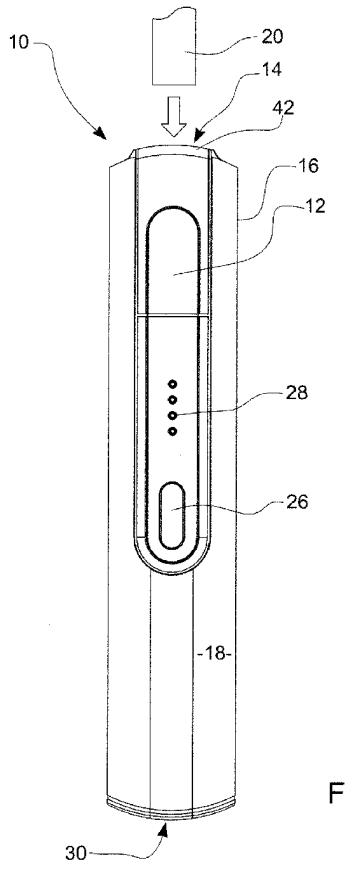

FIG. 1

EP 4 388 904 A3

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 24 17 4746

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X Y A	CN 107 616 552 A (LYUYIN IND SHENZHEN CO LTD) 23 January 2018 (2018-01-23) * abstract; figures * -----	1,4-14 2,15 3	INV. A24F47/00
Y	US 2014/360515 A1 (VASILIEV VLADIMIR [RU] ET AL) 11 December 2014 (2014-12-11) * paragraphs [0003], [0068], [0074] - [0083]; claims; figures * -----	2,15	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)

A24F

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich	14 August 2024	Acerbis, Giorgio

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category
A : technological background
O : non-written disclosure
P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 24 17 4746

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

14-08-2024

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CN 107616552 A	23-01-2018	CN 107616552 A	23-01-2018
		WO 2019061906 A1	04-04-2019
US 2014360515 A1	11-12-2014	CN 103596458 A	19-02-2014
		EP 2753200 A1	16-07-2014
		JP 6265966 B2	24-01-2018
		JP 6503438 B2	17-04-2019
		JP 2014518095 A	28-07-2014
		JP 2016073309 A	12-05-2016
		JP 2018029613 A	01-03-2018
		RU 2013155697 A	20-10-2015
		US 2014360515 A1	11-12-2014
		WO 2013034454 A1	14-03-2013

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82