



## Effect of Draw Resistance on NNK and Its Contribution on Cigarette Hazard Index

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### Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors WH, Zhan Jianbo, JY, FR and LM designed the study, wrote the protocol and interpreted the data. Authors CC, WX, PD, LZ, GL and LT anchored the field study, gathered the initial data and performed preliminary data analysis. Authors CL, YT, XJ, DH, LL, YJ, YY, LG, YZ, ZY, YB, ZH, DW, Zhang Jing, WT, GW and GY managed the literature searches and produced the initial draft. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## ABSTRACT

Effect of cigarette draw resistance between 860-1130Pa on deliveries of NNK in mainstream cigarette smoke (MCS) was investigated, and contribution degree of cigarette hazard index was proposed for the first time to study how the contribution degree could be affected by 7 harmful components. Effect of NNK with different draw resistance on contribution degree of cigarette hazard index was also investigated. The results showed that contribution degree of NNK is uniform, which is different from variation of Benz [a] Pyrene, ammonia and phenol, meanwhile, 1000Pa could be viewed as critical draw resistance, and there is an obvious mainstream cigarette smoke variation below and above 1000Pa. Analysis of contribution degree of cigarette hazard index separately is a feasible tool to study variation of smoke harmful components, which lays foundation for further changing trend and roles of different harmful components while the cigarette hazard index changes.

*Keywords: NNK; draw resistance; mainstream cigarette smoke; harmful components; cigarette hazard index.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 1998, a modified Hoffmann list was widely recognized by the medical profession and the tobacco industry, causing a great impact in the world. Most countries concentrate more stringent restrictions on the release of Hoffmann in cigarette products, and consumers are increasingly concerned about the Hoffmann components. Now filtering function of the filter is mostly based on tar and nicotine, and there is little study on filtering efficiency on harmful ingredients such as tar and nicotine. At present, product design philosophy targeting on release amount of Hoffmann components (CO, NNK, ammonia, HCN, Benz [a] Pyrene, croton aldehyde and phenol) has been widely accepted. Hoffmann components (CO, NNK, ammonia, HCN, Benz [a] Pyrene, croton aldehyde and phenol) were applied by China's tobacco industry as a significant standard of the target products [1]. NNK is a strong carcinogen, is one of the most important chemical carcinogens, is one of the four major food contaminants. Nitrite is contained in food, cosmetics, beer and cigarettes. Smoked cured food contains a lot of nitrosamines, some digestive system tumors, such as esophageal cancer incidence and the number of the dietary intake of nitrosamines associated. When smoked food and wine were taken together, the harm to human health will increase exponentially.

Xie Jianping provided a characterization method of harmful ingredients including CO, NNK, ammonia, HCN, Benz [a] Pyrene, croton aldehyde and phenol. This method is widely applied in the design and evaluation of cigarettes

[2]. Some researchers investigated the effect of cigarette paper, tipping paper and other materials on the release of cigarette smoke components [3-7], and some scholars dwelled on the harmful components and the release of mainstream smoke [8-13]. Some scholars investigated the effect of the design parameters on harmful components of cigarette smoke [14-18]. Some researchers dwelled on the effects of different pumping conditions on harmful gas emissions and the main harmful substances emission and hazard assessment [19-23]. Peng Bin et al. proposed a cigarette hazard assessment system based on the multi objective decision making [24]. Some scholars researched on the relationship between the physical indicators of cigarettes and draw resistance [25-26]. Although the influence of auxiliary materials parameters on the harmful components has been reported, the influence of the draw resistance on the harmful components of cigarette smoke has not been systematically studied and reported. The research provides the basis for the optimization of the design parameters to decrease harm cigarette process, which provides theoretical reference for follow-up study on variation of the harmful components and design of cigarette products while the H value changes.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL

Cigarette samples with different draw resistance were provided by China Tobacco Yunnan Industrial Co. Ltd. The chemical products applied in the experiments are all chromatographic pure.

Main instruments applied include cigarette ignition device, a cigarette by mouth suction

collection system; RM20H smoking machine; Research N1 infrared thermal imaging instrument; Agilent 1200 HPLC, Agilent 7890A gas chromatograph, Agilent7890-5975 gas chromatography mass spectrometry combined with analyzer; IC3000 ion chromatograph; AA3 continuous flow analyzer; Gas Trace2000 phase chromatography -TEA610 type thermal energy analyzer.

According to national standard GB/T 23356-2009, GB/T21130-2007, YC/T253-2008, GB / T23228-2008, YC / T377-2010, YC / T255-2008, YC / T254-2008, harmful components of CO, Benz [a] Pyrene, HCN, NNK, ammonia, phenol and crotonaldehyde in the cigarette smoke were tested [27-33].

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Critical Draw Resistance and Its Effects on NNK

NNK varies obviously with the draw resistance. Draw resistance between 860-1130Pa was selected to analyze NNK variations shown in Fig. 1.

As shown in Fig. 1, when the draw resistance is less than 1000Pa, NNK has obvious fluctuating value between 5.5-6.9 ng/cig, as the draw resistance continues to rise to above 1000Pa, variation of NNK tends to be stable and maintained between the 5.7-7.3 ng/cig.

From the discussion above, 1000 Pa can be regarded as the critical draw resistance of NNK. There is an obvious change of harmful components at 1000 Pa, and the critical draw resistance has important effect on harmful smoke components. In the design process of cigarette parameters, including punching location, which are related to draw resistance, the effect of critical draw resistance should be considered in detail.

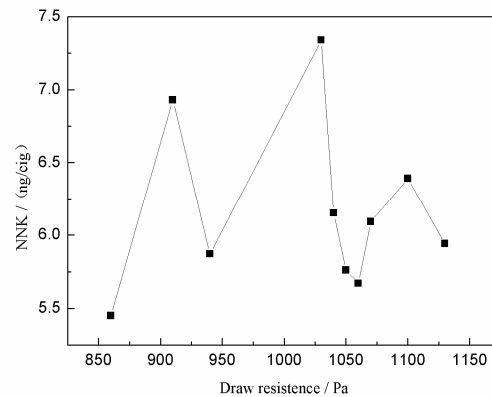


Fig. 1. Variation of NNK with different draw resistance

#### 3.2 Calculation of H Value Contribution Degree

Xie Jianping put forward to calculate flue gas of H value index [2].

$$H = \left( \frac{X_{CO}}{C_{CO}} + \frac{X_{HCN}}{C_{HCN}} + \frac{X_{NNK}}{C_{NNK}} + \frac{X_{ammonia}}{C_{ammonia}} + \frac{X_{Benz [a] Pyrene}}{C_{Benz [a] Pyrene}} + \frac{X_{crotonaldehyde}}{C_{crotonaldehyde}} + \frac{X_{phenol}}{C_{phenol}} \right) \times \frac{10}{7} \quad (1)$$

Where H is the hazard value index,  $X_{CO}$ ,  $X_{HCN}$ ,  $X_{NNK}$ ,  $X_{NH_3}$ ,  $X_{Benz [a] Pyrene}$ ,  $X_{crotonaldehyde}$  and  $X_{phenol}$  are the harmful components emission quality respectively,  $C_{CO}$ ,  $C_{HCN}$ ,  $C_{NNK}$ ,  $C_{ammonia}$ ,  $C_{Benz [a] Pyrene}$ ,  $C_{crotonaldehyde}$  and  $C_{phenol}$  are responding the calculation reference value from the national standard, and  $C_{CO} = 14.8$ ,  $C_{HCN} = 126.7$ ,  $C_{NNK} = 4.7$ ,  $C_{ammonia} = 7.8$ ,  $C_{Benz [a] Pyrene} = 8.2$ ,  $C_{crotonaldehyde} = 22.1$ ,  $C_{phenol} = 19.4$  respectively..

To further study different harmful components, authors proposed H value contribution degree, and the definition is as follows [34],

$$\gamma_i = \frac{X_i}{H \cdot C_i} \times \frac{10}{7} \times 100\% \quad (2)$$

where  $\gamma_i$  is the H value contribution degree of harmful component type  $i$ .

$$\gamma_{\text{NNK}} = \frac{X_{\text{NNK}}}{H \cdot C_{\text{NNK}}} \times \frac{10}{7} \times 100\% \quad (3)$$

where  $\gamma_{\text{NNK}}$  is the H value contribution degree of NNK.

H value contribution degree reflects the contribution of each harmful smoke to the total H value. H value is influenced by different harmful smoke components. The greater the value is, the greater effect of the harmful smoke on H value index is. Different harmful smoke components can be divided into two groups according to the similar change trend of the seven kinds of harmful gas. Resistance to suction effect on Benz [a] Pyrene, ammonia and phenol values are similar.

Comprehensive comparison of the three types of smoke harmful components' contribution degree to the H value and the other four types of harmful components are as shown in Fig. 2 [34].

As can be seen from the analysis on H value contribution degree variation of harmful smoke components, when the draw resistance is lower than 1000Pa there is an obvious fluctuation of three kinds of harmful smoke components. When the draw resistance is higher than 1000Pa, H value contribution degree of NNK maintained at 13.3% - 16.7%. At the same time, in contrast to H value contribution degrees of CO, crotonaldehyde, HCN and NNK, it can be found that H value contribution degrees of Benz [a] Pyrene, ammonia and phenol is significantly

lower than that of the NNK. Although H value contribution degree of NNK is consistent with three harmful components of croton aldehyde, HCN and CO, it occupies greater proportion and plays a more significant contributing role. Classifying harmful ingredients according to the similar variation as another group is a reasonable division [34].

### 3.3 Linear Relationship among H Value Contributions of NNK, Aldehyde, HCN and CO

Linear relation and fitting degree of H value contribution of NNK, aldehyde, HCN and CO, were verified by Origin 8.0 software, which can be seen in Fig. 3.

Among H value contribution degree of NNK, aldehyde, HCN and CO there is a linear relationship. Most of the data still satisfy linear distribution and fitting degree is greater than 0.70, which also proves that linear relationship among NNK, aldehyde, HCN and CO H value contribution exists, as discussed in Section 3.2. Meanwhile authors also analyzed the linearity between H value contribution degrees of these harmful components and contribution degree of another group of Benz [a] Pyrene, ammonia and phenol. Analysis above showed that the method of classifying NNK, aldehyde, HCN and CO according to the variation of H value contribution degree from another group is feasible, and H value contribution is effective when used as a tool to analyze harmful smoke components.

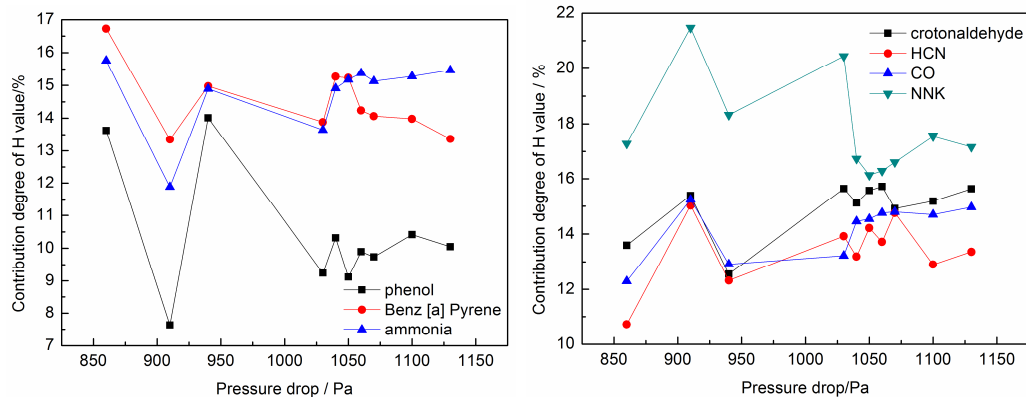
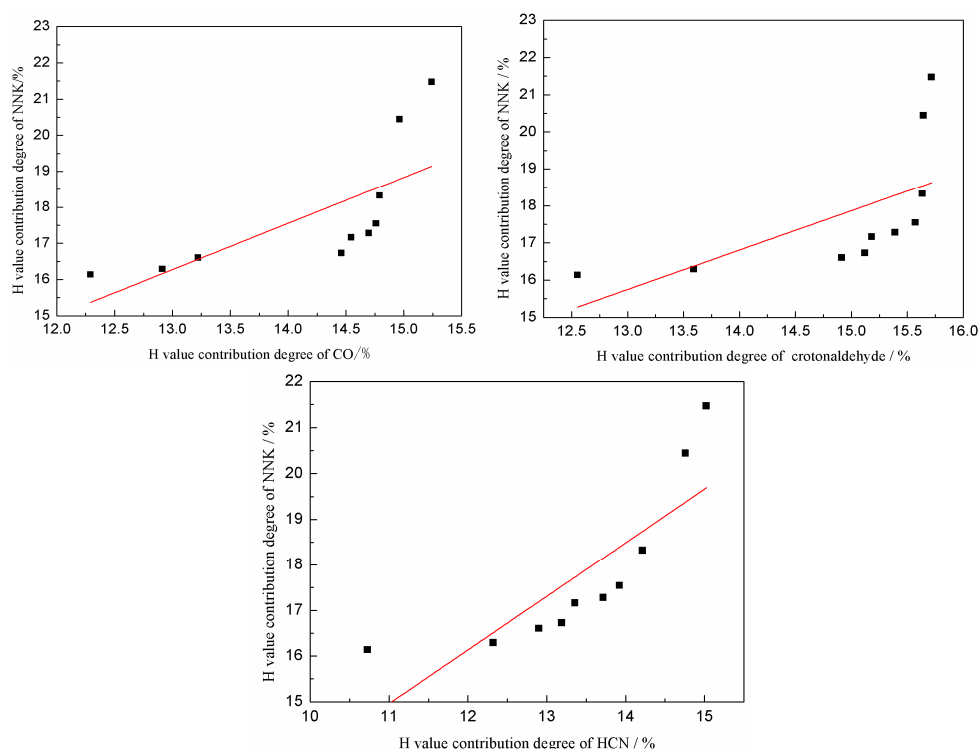


Fig. 2. Variation of H value contribution of 7 types of harmful flue gas components under different pressure drops [34]



**Fig. 3. Relation among H value contributions of NNK, aldehyde, HCN and CO**

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The concept of H value contribution degree reflects the contribution of the main harmful smoke components to the H value, which is an effective tool to measure and calculate the variation of the harmful smoke components. 1000 Pa can be viewed as the critical draw resistance of NNK, and draw resistance is an important standard definition of corresponding smoke and its H value variation. Variation of H value contribution of NNK, aldehyde, HCN and CO is consistent, and there is a linear relationship. Analysis on H value contribution of the harmful smoke is a feasible method to study smoke variation, which also provides a theoretical basis for the changes of the harmful components for further study of H value.

#### CONSENT

All authors declare that 'written informed consent was obtained from the patient (or other approved parties) for publication of this paper and accompanying images.

#### ETHICAL APPROVAL

All authors hereby declare that all experiments have been examined and approved by the

appropriate ethics committee and have therefore been performed in accordance with the ethical standards laid down in the 1964 Declaration of Helsinki.

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#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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