

**ROB BONTA**  
**Attorney General**

**State of California**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



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October 6, 2023

J. Kelly Michols  
Chief Executive Officer  
Scandinavian Tobacco Group Lane Limited  
2100 E Cary St., Suite 200  
Richmond, VA 23223-7270

RE: California Flavor Ban, Health & Safety Code § 104559.5  
Notice of Determination 23-10-A2

Dear Mr. Michols:

Since June 30, 2004, the Attorney General's Office has maintained and published a list of all cigarette manufacturers and their brands found in compliance with California Revenue and Taxation Code section 30165.1 ("Tobacco Directory"). See <https://oag.ca.gov/tobacco/directory>. However, not all products listed on the Tobacco Directory are lawful for sale in California.

California has restricted retailer possession, distribution, and sale of flavored tobacco products since December 21, 2022. See Cal. Health & Saf. § 104559.5. This California "flavor ban" law establishes a rebuttable presumption that a tobacco product is flavored where its manufacturer "has made a statement or claim directed to consumers or to the public that the tobacco product has or produces a characterizing flavor, including, but not limited to, text, color, images, or all, on the product's labeling or packaging that are used to explicitly or implicitly communicate that the tobacco product has a characterizing flavor." *Id.* at § 104559.5(b)(2).

You submitted the products listed below (collectively, the "Reviewed Products") for submission on the Tobacco Directory. This letter is to advise you that the Tobacco Unit of the California Department of Justice has determined that the Reviewed Products are presumptively FLAVORED under the California flavor ban law. *Id.*

| Determination Number | Reviewed Product(s)                       | UPC(s)       | Determination |
|----------------------|---|--------------|---------------|
| 23-10-A2-1           | Bugler Menthol 0.65 oz<br>Pocket Pouch    | 761073426233 | FLAVORED      |
| 23-10-A2-2           | Kite Menthol 0.65 oz Pouch                | 761073426387 | FLAVORED      |
| 23-10-A2-3           | Kite Menthol 6 oz Can                     | 761073425991 | FLAVORED      |
| 23-10-A2-4           | Midnight Special Menthol<br>0.65 oz Pouch | 761073426264 | FLAVORED      |

We specifically conclude:

- (1) Labeling for the Reviewed Products states that products are menthol-flavored tobacco products.

The California flavor ban law restricts the retail distribution and sale of flavored tobacco products to California consumers. Under the California flavor ban law, retailers and their agents are subject to fines for the possession and sale of such flavored tobacco products. *See* Cal. Health & Saf. § 104559.5(f). Other state statutes and local ordinances may impose additional penalties on retailers or other vendors as well. *Id.* at § 104559.5(g); *see also* Cal. Bus. & Prof. § 17200.

To encourage uniform application of the California flavor ban law, this Notice of Determination will be posted on the California Department of Justice's public website on or after November 6, 2023.

You are encouraged to provide a copy to your California distributor and retailer customers as well.

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If you believe these determinations or conclusions are in error, or if you believe any Reviewed Product(s) is properly classified as UNFLAVORED, we encourage you to submit a response with any supporting materials to the mailing or email address below on or before November 6, 2023, identifying the Notice of Determination number in your response. The Tobacco Unit will review any such submission and may, in its discretion, update, modify, or rescind this determination in response. In such case, an updated Notice of Determination will be issued.

**Flavor Determination [Determination Number(s)]**

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**<https://oag.ca.gov/tobacco/contact>**

Sincerely,

*Taylor Ann Whittemore*

TAYLOR ANN WHITTEMORE  
Deputy Attorney General

For ROB BONTA  
Attorney General