

A cigarette manufacturing apparatus comprises a tobacco rod maker for making double length tobacco rods, a tipper for applying filters to tobacco rods to form filter tipped cigarettes, and a transfer apparatus for transferring double length tobacco rods from the rod maker to the tipper. Each of the tipper and the rod maker comprises a plurality of field devices for monitoring and/or affecting parameters of the rod maker, the tipper or the cigarettes being manufactured. A motion controller controls a plurality of synchronised motors. A PC based controller controls the motion controller, the devices on the tipper and the rod maker and communicates with an HMI which is running on the same or a separate PC. The devices and the controller are linked by a field bus. The HMI PC and the motion controller are connected to the system controller either over their own links or via the fieldbus.

