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The invention relates to the post-harvest tobacco treatment, namely to its fermentation stage, and may be used in the tobacco producing farms and fermentation plants for obtaining tobacco raw material suitable for production of smoking articles.

The problem which this invention resolves consists in excluding the over-drying of tobacco bails periphery and reducing the power consumption for carrying out the fermentation process.

The process according to the invention resolves the problem in a manner that in comparison with the known process for tobacco fermentation including the alternation of heating the tobacco in the chamber up to 50...60°C and cooling thereof up to 40...45°C at an active ventilation and maintaining the relative air humidity into the chamber in the limits of 65...75%, during tobacco heating the active ventilation degree is maintained in limits of 2,0...2,5 m³/hour per 1 kg of the loaded raw material, and during cooling the active ventilation is turned off.

The total duration of all the operations including raw material heating and cooling up to the environment medium temperature constitutes on the average according to the proposed process, about 120 hours. At the initial tobacco humidity from 20% up to 28% the number of cycles "heating-cooling" varies from two up to six at the average duration of a cycle of 8...10 hours.