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இலங்கைத் தேயிலைச் சபை
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

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காலி வீதி, கொழும்பு, இலங்கை
Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka.

Circular No.: AL/MQS-Rev/2010

26th April 2010.

TO ALL REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS OF TEA

Dear Sirs,

Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards/ Guidelines for Tea
Sri Lanka Tea Board Law No. 14 of 1975
Tea Control Act No 51 of 1957
Tea (Tax & Control of Export) Act No 16 of 1959
Sri Lanka Tea Board (Import & Export) Regulations 1981

Reference my previous Circular No.AL/MQS/08 of 24th April 2008 which has been replaced with this new Circular.

02. Sri Lanka Tea Board as the monitoring authority of quality/standard of teas exported is mandated to protect the image of Ceylon tea established globally. As you are aware, Sri Lanka Tea Board has introduced a set of standards/guidelines in year 2008 with power vested by statute and through experience in follow-up monitoring action during the past. This circular is released as a result of a number of complaints from buying countries received about contaminants and adulterants of tea exported from Sri Lanka and the comments forwarded in connection with the previous circular. As a protective measure the Tea Board has introduced and implements Standards and Guidelines for “Sri Lankan Origin Teas” and “Other Origin Teas” which are imported for re-export purposes. The Minimum Quality Standard will cover ISO 3720 for Black Tea and this standard is mandatory at the point of export of any teas.

03. The Guidelines pertaining to the limits indicated in the **Annexure – A** other than the established ISO standards (i.e. Chemical contaminants, Extraneous (Foreign) matters, Microbial contaminants and Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides etc.,) should be taken only as guidelines for compliance by all registered manufacturers and exporters of Sri Lankan Origin Tea.

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04. The limits indicated in the **Annexure - B** are considered as standards and should be strictly applicable for all other origin teas at the point of importation and exportation of the same after value addition. Hence non conformity to such standards in any other origin teas will be treated as grounds for rejection of import / re-export.

05. The above Guidelines and Standards are implemented with effect from 01st May 2010.

06. Any further clarification in this regard could be obtained from Mr. K. R. W. Abeywickrama, Assistant Director (Laboratory) on Telephone/ Fax no. 0112581576 or e-mail labsltb123@yahoo.com.

Yours truly,



Lalith Nettiarachchi
Chairman
Sri Lanka Tea Board

Copies:

01. Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries
02. Director, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka
03. Director General, Sri Lanka Standards Institute
04. Director, Industrial Technology Institute
05. Director, National Plant Quarantine Service
06. Government Analyst, Government Analysts' Department
07. Registrar of Pesticides, Department of Agriculture
08. Chairman, Colombo Tea Traders Association
09. Chairman, Colombo Brokers' Association
10. Chairman, Tea Exporters' Association
11. Chairman, The Planters' Association of Ceylon
12. Chairman, Tea Small Holdings Development Authority
13. Chairman, Private Tea Factory Owners' Association
14. Hon. President, Federation of Tea Small Holder Development Societies
15. Director General of Customs, Department of Customs.
16. Tea Commissioner/Deputy Tea Commissioner(Exports),SLTB.
17. Director Tea Promotion, SLTB.
18. Deputy Director (Technical), SLTB.

Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards for “Sri Lankan Origin Teas”

1) Basic Requirements for Black Tea: ISO 3720: 1986/ Corrigendum 1: 1992 (E) & 2:2004 (E) and/or Sri Lanka Standards 135:1979 (UDC 663.951).

<u>Name of Standard</u>	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Water Extract	min 32 % (m/m)	ISO 9768:1994
2. Total Ash	min. 4% (m/m) – max. 8% (m/m)	ISO 1575:1987
3. Water – soluble ash of total ash	min. 45% (m/m)	ISO 1576:1988
4. Alkalinity of water-soluble ash (As KOH)	min. 1.0% (m/m) – max. 3.0% (m/m)	ISO 1578:1975
5. Acid insoluble ash	max. 1.0% (m/m)	ISO 1577:1987
6. Crude fibre	max. 16.5% (m/m)	ISO 15598:1999

SRI LANKA TEA BOARD GUIDELINES

1) Foreign Matter – Completely free

(Teas should comply with ISO 3720:1986 parameters specified above)

2) Heavy Metals:

	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Iron	– max. 500 mg/kg	AOAC: 975.03 (2007)
2. Copper	– max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 971.20 (2007)
3. Lead	– max. 2 mg/kg	AOAC: 972.25 (2007)
4. Zinc	– max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 969.32 (2007)
5. Cadmium	– max. 0.2 mg/kg	AOAC: 973.34 (2007)

(AOAC – Association of Official Analytical Chemists)

3) Microbiological Requirement:

<u>Name of Standard</u>	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Aerobic plate count	max 10,000 cfu/g	SLS 516: Part 1: 1991/ISO 4833:2003
2. Yeast & mould	max.1,000 cfu/g	SLS 516: Part 2: 1991/ISO 21527-2:2008
3. Total <i>Coliforms</i>	max.10 MPN/g	SLS 516: Part 3: 1982/ISO 4831:2006
4. <i>E.coli</i>	Absent / g	SLS 516: Part 3: 1982/ISO 7251:2005
5. <i>Salmonella</i>	Absent / 25 g	SLS 516: Part 5: 1992/ISO 6579:2002

4) Pesticide Residues:

Following twenty seven pesticides are recommended for use by the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka (TRI). Therefore, Sri Lankan Origin Teas should not contain residues of pesticides other than in this list. In addition exporters of tea should be guided by the standards in the destination country as required by the importer. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in EU and Japan for the respective pesticides are given for information.

Name of the Pesticide	Category/ type	MRL EU Regulation (EC) No.396/2005 (23/06/09) mg/kg (ppm)	MRL Japan: Positive list (MHLW – May 2009) mg/kg (ppm)
1. 2,4-D	W.....	0.1	NL*
2. Azadirachtin(Neemextract)	A,I,N...	0.01	Exempted
3. Bitertanol	F.....	0.1	0.1
4. Carbofuran	I & N.....	0.05.....	0.2
5. Carbosulfan	I.....	0.1	0.1
6. Chlorfluazuron	I	0.01	10
7. Copper hydroxide	F.....	40 (as Cu)	Exempted
8. Copper oxide	F.....	40 (as Cu).....	Exempted
9. Copper oxychloride	F.....	40 (as Cu).....	Exempted
10. Dazomet	N.....	0.02	0.1
11. Diazinon	I.....	0.02.....	0.1
12. Diuron	W.....	0.1	1
13. Fenamiphos(Ph)	N.....	0.05.....	0.05
14. Fenthion	I.....	0.1	NL*
15. Glufosinate-ammonium	W.....	0.1	0.5
16. Glyphosate	W.....	2	1
17. Hexaconazole	F.....	0.05.....	0.05
18. Imidacloprid	I.....	0.05.....	10
19. MCPA	W.....	0.1	NL*
20. Metam Sodium	I & N.....	0.02	0.1
21. Oxyfluorfen	W.....	0.05	NL*
22. Paraquat	W.....	0.05.....	0.3
23. Propargite	A	5	5
24. Propiconazole	F	0.1	0.1
25. Sulphur	A	5	Exempted
26. Tebuconazole	F	0.05	30
27. Tebufenozide	I	0.1	25

A-Acaricide; F-Fungicide; I-Insecticide; N-Nematicide; W-Weedicides;

NL*: Denotes that MRLs are not established. However default MRL of 0.01mg/kg is defined as the Limit.

Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards/ Guidelines for tea are subjected to periodical revision.

Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards for “Other Origin Teas”

1) Basic Requirement for Black Tea: ISO 3720: 1986/ Corrigendum 1: 1992(E) & 2:2004 (E)

<u>Name of Standard</u>	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Water Extract	min 32 % (m/m)	ISO 9768:1994
2. Total Ash	min. 4% (m/m) – max. 8% (m/m)	ISO 1575:1987
3. Water-soluble ash of total ash	min. 45% (m/m)	ISO 1576:1988
4. Alkalinity of water-soluble ash (As KOH)	min. 1.0% (m/m)–max. 3.0% (m/m)	ISO 1578:1975
5. Acid insoluble ash	max. 1.0% (m/m)	ISO 1577:1987
6. Crude fiber	max. 16.5% (m/m)	ISO 15598:1999

2) Foreign Matter – Completely free

(Teas should comply with ISO 3720:1986 parameters specified above)

3) Heavy Metals:

	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Iron	– max. 500 mg/kg	AOAC: 975.03 (2007)
2. Copper	– max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 971.20 (2007)
3. Lead	– max. 2 mg/kg	AOAC: 972.25 (2007)
4. Zinc	– max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 969.32 (2007)
5. Cadmium	– max. 0.2 mg/kg	AOAC: 973.34 (2007)

(AOAC – Association of Official Analytical Chemists)

4) Microbiological Requirement:

<u>Name of Standard</u>	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Aerobic plate count	max 10,000 cfu/g	SLS 516: Part 1:1991/ISO 4833:2003
2. Yeast & mould	max.1,000 cfu/g	SLS 516: Part 2:1991/ISO 21527-2:2008
3. Total <i>Coliforms</i>	max.10 MPN/g	SLS 516: Part 3:1982/ISO 4831:2006
4. <i>E.coli</i>	Absent / g	SLS 516: Part 3:1982/ISO 7251:2005
5. <i>Salmonella</i>	Absent / 25 g	SLS 516: Part 5:1992/ISO 6579:2002

5) Pesticide Residues:

Note: The MRLs given below for the respective pesticides could be used as the accepted standards established by the Sri Lanka Tea Board under the ‘Sri Lanka Tea Board (Import & Export) Regulations 1981 – Scheme for import of tea for blending and export thereafter:

<u>Name of the Pesticide</u>	<u>Maximum Residues Limit (MRL) mg/kg (ppm)</u>
1. Acephate	0.05
2. Acetamiprid	0.1
3. Bifenthrin	5
4. Bromopropylate	0.1
5. Buprofezin	0.05
6. Chlorfenapyr	40
7 Chlorpyrifos (-ethyl)	0.1
8. Cyfluthrin, total	0.1

Name of the Pesticide	Maximum Residues Limit (MRL) mg/kg (ppm)
9 Cyhalothrin (-lambda)	0.01
10. Cypermethrin, total	0.5
11. DDT, total	0.00*
12. Deltamethrin	5
13. Dicofol	3.0
14. Dimethoate, total	0.00*
15. Dimethrin	0.04
16. Diphenylamine	0.05
17. Dithiocarbamate	0.1
18. Endosulfan, total	0.00*
19. Ethion	0.3
20. Fenazaquin	0.01
21. Fenpropathrin	0.01
22. Fenthion	0.01
23. Fenvalerate RR/SS	0.05
24. Fenvalerate RS/SR	0.05
25. Flusilazole	0.01
26. Fluvalinate (-Tau)	0.01
27. Glyphosate	1.0
28. Halfenprox	0.01
29. HCH, total without Lindane	0.00*
30. Hexaconazole	0.05
31. Imidacloprid, total	0.05
32. Isocarbophos	0.01
33. Lindane	0.00*
34. Malathion	0.5
35. Methamidophos	0.00*
36. Methidathion	0.1
37. Methomyl	0.00*
38. Monocrotophos	0.1
39. Paraquat	0.05
40. Permethrin, total	0.01
41. Pirimiphos-methyl	0.05
42. Profenofos	0.1
43. Propargite	5
44. Pyridaben	0.05
45. Quinalphos	0.00*
46. S 421	0.01
47. Tetradifon	0.05
48. Triazophos	0.02

0.00*: Denotes that pesticides banned to use in Sri Lanka and are not permitted to appear in teas in any form as residues.

Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards for tea are subjected to periodical revision.