

SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

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574, Galle Road,  
Colombo 03.

25th April, 1995

TO : ALL REGISTERED MANUFACTURERS OF TEA

Dear Sir/Sirs,

Procedure to be adopted for testing of Seasonal Teas

There has been periodical complaints from the tea trade in regard to the exaggerated Methyl Salicylate flavour in seasonal teas, which could arise on account of the adulteration of such teas with the chemical Methyl Salicylate. With a view to ensuring that the seasonal teas are not chemically adulterated in this manner, the Sri Lanka Tea Board in consultation with the Colombo Tea Traders' Association, Colombo Brokers' Association and the Planters' Association of Ceylon has appointed a Panel to carry out liquoring and tasting of Seasonal Teas.

The following procedure for testing of seasonal teas will come into effect immediately:

1. On closure of the ex-estate sale catalogues on Wednesday of the week, the Brokers will carry out preliminary tasting of samples of Seasonal Teas catalogued for sale to determine whether in their opinion the teas show an unusual seasonal character and are suspected of being adulterated with the chemical, Methyl Salicylate.
2. Samples of teas which show an unusual seasonal character and are suspected of being adulterated with Methyl Salicylate will be forwarded by the Broker concerned to the Tea Tasting Unit of the Tea Promotion Bureau not later than 3.00 p.m. of the following day (i.e. Thursday, the day after the ex-estate catalogues are closed).
3. The Director, Tea Promotion Bureau will arrange a meeting of the Tea Board Panel in the afternoon of Thursday for liquoring and tasting of such tea samples.
4. Teas which are suspected by the Tea Board Panel as been adulterated with Methyl Salicylate will be referred for chemical analysis and report to the Tea Research Institute, Talawakelle in the forenoon of Friday.
5. The Selling Brokers of teas, the samples of which have been referred for chemical analysis to the Tea Research Institute will be informed accordingly by 10.00 a.m. of Friday in order to withdraw such teas from the sale catalogue pending the findings of the Tea Research Institute.
6. The findings of the Tea Research Institute on the chemical analysis carried out on tea samples referred to them by the Tea Board Panel will be considered conclusive and uncontestable. The teas, if any, which are found to be adulterated with Methyl Salicylate in terms of the Chemical Analysis report of the Tea Research Institute will be destroyed under the personal supervision of the Tea Commissioner of the Tea