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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/08

24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

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)

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. This matter has been re-emphasized as a result of number of complaints from buying countries received about contaminants and adulterants of tea exported from Sri Lanka. As a protective measure the Tea Board has now finalized and implements Standards and Guidelines for "Sri Lanka 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.

02. The Guidelines pertaining to the Maximum Residue Limits of Pesticides, Microbial contaminants and extraneous matters indicated in the Annexure - A should be taken as guidelines for compliance by all registered manufacturers and exporters of tea.

03. The standards indicated in the Annexure - B should be strictly applicable for all other origin teas at the point of importation and exportation. Hence non conformity of such standards in any other origin teas will be treated as grounds for rejection of import / re export.

04. The above Guidelines and Standards are implemented with effect from 01<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

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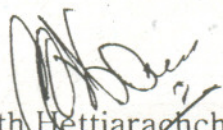
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05. Any further clarification in this regard could be obtained from Mr. K. R. W. Abeywickrama, Assistant Director (Laboratory) on Telephone/ Fax no. 0112581576 or e-mail [labsltb123@yahoo.com](mailto:labsltb123@yahoo.com).

Yours truly,

  
Lalith Hettiarachchi  
Chairman  
Sri Lanka Tea Board

Copies: Secretary, Ministry of Plantation Industries  
Director, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka  
Director General, Sri Lanka Standards Institute  
Director, Industrial Technology Institute  
Director, National Plant Quarantine Service  
Government Analyst, Government Analysts' Department  
Registrar of Pesticides, Department of Agriculture  
Chairman, Colombo Tea Traders Association  
Chairman, Tea Association of Sri Lanka  
Chairman, Colombo Brokers' Association  
Chairman, Tea Exporters' Association  
Chairman, The Planters' Association of Ceylon  
Chairman, Tea Small Holdings Development Authority  
Chairman, Private Tea Factory Owners' Association  
Hon. President, Federation of Tea Small Holder  
Director General of Customs, Department of Customs.  
Tea Commissioner/ Deputy Tea Commissioner (Exports)  
Director Tea Promotion  
Deputy Director (Technical)



## Sri Lanka Tea Board Standards for "Sri Lankan Origin Tea"

1) Basic Requirement: 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 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 parameters specified above)

### 2) Heavy Metals:

		<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Iron	- max. 500 mg/kg	AOAC: 975.03 (1995)
2. Copper	- max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 971.20 (1995)
3. Lead	- max. 5 mg/kg	AOAC: 972.25 (1995)
4. Zinc	- max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 969.32 (1995)
5. Cadmium	- max. 0.2 mg/kg	AOAC: 973.34 (1995)

(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/g	SLS 516: Part 1: 1991
2. Yeast & mould	max.1,000 counts/g	SLS 516: Part 2: 1991
3. Total coliforms	max.10 MPN/g	SLS 516: Part 3: 1982
4. <i>E.coli</i>	Absent / g	SLS 516: Part 3: 1982
5. <i>Salmonella</i>	Absent / 25 g	SLS 516: Part 5: 1992

### 4) Pesticide Residues:

Following twenty seven pesticides are recommended by the Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka (TRI). Therefore, Sri Lankan Origin Tea should not contain residues of any other pesticides. Exporters of tea should be guided by the standards in the destination country. Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in EU and Japan for the respective pesticides are given for information.



Name of the Pesticide	MRL	MRL
	EU: Issue 10 (20/09/07) mg/kg (ppm)	Japan: Positive list (2/10/06) mg/kg (ppm)
1. 2,4-D	0.1 .....	NL*
2. Bitertanol	0.1 .....	0.1
3. Carbofuran	0.05 .....	0.2
4. Carbosulfan	0.1 .....	0.1
5. Chlorfluazuron	NL* .....	10
6. Copper hydroxide	100 (as Cu) .....	Exempted
7. Copper oxide	100 (as Cu) .....	Exempted
8. Copper oxychloride	100 (as Cu) .....	Exempted
9. Dazomet	NL* .....	0.1
10. Diazinon	0.02 .....	0.1
11. Diuron	NL* .....	1
12. Fenamiphos	0.05 .....	0.05
13. Fenthion	0.1 .....	NL*
14. Glufosinate-ammonium	NL* .....	0.5
15. Glyphosate	2 .....	1
16. Hexaconazole	0.05 .....	0.05
17. Imidacloprid	NL* .....	10
18. MCPA	0.1 .....	NL*
19. Metam Sodium	NL* .....	0.1
20. Oxyfluorfen	NL* .....	NL*
21. Paraquat	0.05 .....	0.3
22. Propargite	5 .....	5
23. Propiconazole	0.1 .....	0.1
24. Sulphur	NL* .....	Exempted
25. Tebuconazole	NL* .....	30
26. Tebufenozide	NL* .....	25
27. Neem extract (Azadirachtin)	NL* .....	Exempted

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 Tea"

### 1) Basic Requirement: 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	max. 8% (m/m) – min. 4% (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 15598:1999	max. 16.5% (m/m)	ISO

	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
2) Moisture: Moisture content at the point of importation – max. 6%	ISO 1573:1975
Moisture content at the point of shipment – max. 9%,	

- 3) Foreign Matter – Completely free  
(Teas should comply with ISO 3720 parameters specified above)

### 4) Heavy Metals:

		<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Iron	– max. 500 mg/kg	AOAC: 975.03 (1995)
2. Copper	– max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 971.20 (1995)
3. Lead	– max. 5 mg/kg	AOAC: 972.25 (1995)
4. Zinc	– max. 100 mg/kg	AOAC: 969.32 (1995)
5. Cadmium	– max. 0.2 mg/kg	AOAC: 973.34 (1995)
(AOAC – Association of Official Analytical Chemists)		

### 5) Microbiological Requirement:

<u>Name of Standard</u>	<u>Accepted Limit</u>	<u>Test Method Ref.</u>
1. Aerobic plate count	max.10,000 /g	SLS 516: Part 1:1991
2. Yeast & mould	max.1,000 counts/g	SLS 516: Part 2:1991
3. Total coli forms	max.10 MPN/g	SLS 516: Part 3:1982
4. <i>E.coli</i>	Absent / g	SLS 516: Part 3:1982
5. <i>Salmonella</i>	Absent / 25 g	SLS 516: Part 5:1992

### 6) Pesticide Residues:

<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. Buprofezin	0.02
5. Chlorfenapyr	0.01
6. Chlorpyrifos (-ethyl)	NL*
7. Cyfluthrin, total	0.1
8. Cyhalothrin, lambda	NL*
9. Cypermethrin, total	0.5
10. DDT, total	0.00
11. Deltamethrin	NL*



12. Dicofol	0.01
13. Dimethoate, total	0.00
14. Endosulfan, total	0.00
15. Ethion	0.01
16. Fenazaquin	0.01
17. Fenpropathrin	0.01
18. Fenvalerate RR/SS	0.05
19. Fenvalerate RS/SR	0.05
20. Flusilazole	0.01
21. Fluvalinate-Tau	0.01
22. Glyphosate	1
23. Hexaconazole	0.05
24. Imidacloprid, total	NL*
25. Isocarbophos	0.01
26. Lindane	0.00
27. Methamidophos	0.00
28. Monocrotophos	0.01
29. Permethrin, total	0.1
30. Propargite	0.01
31. Pyridaben	0.01
32. Quinalphos	0.00
33. S 421	0.01
34. Tetradifon	0.01
35. Triazophos	0.01
36. Diphenylamine	0.01
37. Dithiocarbamate	0.1
38. Halfenprox	0.01
39. HCH, total without Lindane	0.00
40. Pirimiphos-methyl	0.05
41. Paraquat	0.05
42. Profenofos	0.1
43. Methomyl	0.00
44. Fenthion	NL*
45. Methidathion	0.1
46. Bromopropylate	0.1
47. Malathion	0.5
48. Dimethrin	NL*

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

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