



SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

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OR/3/4

8th June, 1987

- i) Chairman, Colombo Tea Traders Association;
- ii) All Tea Brokers

Dear Sir,

MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARD FOR TEA

The Tea Board, at its meeting held on 28th May, 1987, reviewed the current minimum quality standard for tea and made the following decisions:-

- 1) The Minimum Quality Standard based on ISO 3720, which is currently in force in Sri Lanka, be continued unchanged;
- 2) The standard be applied at the point of export and not for domestic sales;
- 3) The Board will setup the necessary mechanism to ensure that exporters adhere to this Minimum Standard in servicing export orders;
- 4) The Minimum Standard panel consisting of representatives of the Tea Board, JEDB, SLSPC, TSHDA, Tea Brokers and the Tea Trade will continue to function to review appeals made by exporters relating to the Minimum Quality Standard;
- 5) The Sri Lanka Tea Board may, in due course, make necessary regulations under its Act to ensure the enforcement of the Minimum Quality Standard for tea exports.

2. The Tea Board has also decided that ISO 3720 standard will continue as the minimum standard for sales at the Colombo Tea Auctions, and that teas below this standard should not be catalogued for sale at the Auctions. However, the producers would be permitted to sell any grade of tea falling below this standard through the normal private sale procedure. If such teas are up-graded above the ISO 3720 Standard by blending or by reclaiming the good teas

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therefrom, it would be permitted to be exported. The Tea Board will carry out physical verification of shipments containing such teas to ensure that they are above the ISO Standard 3720.

3. The Brokers should, in their monthly private sales statements, indicate clearly the teas sold by them which are below the Minimum Quality Standard ISO 3720.

4. The above decisions would take effect from 1st July, 1987.

5. This circular does not apply to the disposal of "refuse tea" which is governed by the provisions of the Tea Control Act NO. 51 of 1957.

Yours faithfully
SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

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(H.D.T. Bodhidasa)
Chairman