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ගාල පාර. තොළබ 3. ශී ලංකාව සෙති නී නී, පිසැලබ්ටු , බුනම්කය 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 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008 which has been replaced with this new Circular.

- O2. 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.

- O4. 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 <u>labsltb123@yahoo.com</u>.

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

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#### Annexure A

# 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).

Name of Standard	Accepted Limit	Test Method Ref.
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	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:

	- Accepted Limit	Test Method Ref.
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 – Associ	ation of Official Analytical Chemists)

### 3) Microbiological Requirement

Name of Standard	Accepted Limit	Test Method R	ef.	
1. Aerobic plate count	max 10,000 cfu/g	SLS 516: Part 1	i: 1991/ISO 4833:2003	
2. Yeast & mould	max.1,000 cfu/g	SLS 516: Part 2	2: 1991/ISO 21527-2:2008	
3. Total Coliforms	max.10 MPN/g	SLS 516: Part 3	3: 1982/ISO 4831:2006	
4. E.coli	Absent / g	SLS 516: Part 3	3: 1982/ISO 7251:2005	
5 Salmonella	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		me of the	Category/	MRL	MRL
	Pe	esticide	type	EU Regulation (EC)	Japan: Positive list
				No.396/2005 (23/06/09)	
			- 10 - 10 30	malka (nom)	
	1.	2,4-D	W	.0.1	
	2.	Azadirachtin(Neeme	extract)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	.0.1 .0.01 .0.05 .0.1 0.01 40 (as Cu)	10
	7.	Copper hydroxide	F	40 (as Cu)	Exempted
	8.	Copper oxide	H	4()(38(.11)	Exempted
	9.	Copper oxychloride	F	40 (as Cu)	Exempted
	10.	Dazomet	N	0.02	0.1
	11.	Diazinon	I	0.02 0.02	0.1
	12.	Diuron	W	0.1	1
	13.	Fenamiphos(Ph)	N	0.05 0.1	0.05
	14.	Fenthion	I	0.1	NL*
		01.7			0.5
	16.	Glyphosate	W	0.1 2 0.05 0.05	:1
	17.	Hexaconazole	F:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	0.05	0.05
					10
;	19.	MCPA	W	0.1 0.02	· NL*
		Metam Sodium	I & N	0.02	
	21.	Oxyfluorfen	W	0.05 0.05	NL*
1	22.	Paraquat	W	0.05	0.3
	23.	Propargite	A	0.05 5 0.1	- 5
4. "	24.	Propiconazole	F	0.1	0.1
2	٥٠.	Juipilar	A A	U	Exempted
-		Tebuconazole	F	0.05	30
	27.	Tebufenozide		0.1	25
		the state of the s	* The Tax	Contracting to the contract of the facility of the contract of	

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

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

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