

# SRI LANKA TEA BOARD

Ref: TC/E/VV/81/P

Tea Commissioner's Division  
574, Galle Road, Colombo 3  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

To: All Registered Importers of Tea

Regulatory Reforms – Tea Sector  
Sri Lanka Tea Board (Import & Export) Regulations – 1981  
SCHEME FOR IMPORT OF TEA FOR BLENDING &  
EXPORT THEREAFTER  
Procedures related to Export of Other Origin teas at  
the Tea Exports Section of the Sri Lanka Tea Board

On the recommendations of the Regulatory Review Task Force, Which have been approved by the Ministry of Plantation Industries and the Sri Lanka Tea Board, the following general guidelines are issued under the above regulations.

## General Guidelines

Your attention is drawn to the Sri Lanka Tea Board (Import & Export) Regulations –1981 published in Gazette Extraordinary No. 134/6 of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1981 and subsequent amendments published in Gazette extraordinary Nos. 282/2 of 30.01.1984 and 467/42 of 21.08.1987.

02. Persons whose projects have been approved under these Regulations are required to adhere to the following procedure in future.

1. Import of Tea for Blending and Export

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Any registered exporters of tea under the Tea (Tax & Control of Export) Act No. 16 of 1956, who wish to import teas should be registered as an importer, under the above regulation.

ii. \* The issue of permits for import under the above scheme would be limited only for the importation of CTC teas and specialty type of teas. (Relevant Circular is annexed)

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iii. \* Permits will be issued only for teas to be imported direct from the country of origin/producer country. A Certificate of origin, and a Certificate confirming teas are free of banned pesticides or other pesticide residues should be furnished, as detailed by the line authority.

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iv. \* Applications for permits to import tea should be made to the Deputy Tea Commissioner (Exports) on the prescribed form, obtainable from the Tea Exports Branch of the Tea Commissioner's Division of the Sri Lanka Tea Board at 574, Galle Road, Colombo 3.

v. \* On arrival of the Imported Tea at the Port of entry, the importer should notify the Tea Export Branch of the arrival of the consignment under each Import permit and the expected date of unloading by giving the particulars called for in annexure IB.

vi. \* The Imported Tea should be transferred directly from the Port to the approved warehouse for storage. The teas should be stacked separately from all other teas with proper identification marks.

vi. \* If there is any change of warehouse addresses, it has to be notified to the Deputy Tea Commissioner (Exports) Tea Exports Branch promptly.

vii. \* Immediately upon arrival of Imported Tea at the warehouse, the Importer should furnish to the Tea Exports Branch a statement of Imported Tea in annexure I/C along with copies of CUSDEC (IMP), Bill of Lading, Packing List/Weight certificate and SLPA Delivery Note within 3 days from the date of receipt. Sri Lanka Tea Board reserves the right to draw independent samples from any consignment either at the warehouse or at any other location.

viii. \* Such imported teas can be utilized only after inspection of unloaded consignment, drawing of samples and examination of such samples by the Tea Board. In case teas imported are different from the teas permitted either in quality standard or grade permission will not be granted for usage.

#### ix. Clearing of Imports

Exporters importing tea for blending and re-export will be required to make use of the TIEP Scheme implemented by the Director General of Customs. The imports will be released either on a bank guarantee of 25% or 100% of the amount of duties and fiscal levies payable or on Company or Personal guarantee.

x. \* Consignment of tea imported under the scheme, should be re-exported within a period of Nine months after such import, provided however if the Board is satisfied that such exporter is unable due to circumstances beyond his control to export such tea within such period, the Board may extend such period for them to export such tea within extended period.

xi. \* At the time of importation if any excess quantity or shortage is detected, it should be notified with the relevant documents to the Tea Exports Section before inspection of unloaded consignment.



2. \* LOCALLY PURCHASED TEA FOR BLENDING

The Importers are allowed to blend the Imported Tea with Local Tea only if such local tea has been purchased through approved channels with export rights.

BLEND SHEETS

- i. A blend sheet should be prepared as in Form A in respect of all imported teas used in a Blend prepared for export.
- ii. When locally purchased teas are used for blending with imported teas, a separate Blend Sheet should be prepared as in Form B.
- iii. A summary of Blend should be prepared in respect of each individual Export Permit as in Form C by extracting particulars from Form A & B.
- iv. Exporters are allowed to prepare Blends for export in advance. In such instances, the particulars of record Blends so prepared should be declared to the Tea Exports Branch in Form A & B.

3. BLEND GAINS

- i. The Exporters should determine the actual Blend Gain or Loss within two weeks of the actual blending process and has to be recorded under respective blends. The particulars so recorded should be furnished monthly before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month to the Exports Branch. (Form ID)
- ii. Only Blend Gains declared in the above manner will be authorized to be exported.

4. PROCEDURE RELATED TO EXPORT OF TEA

All exporters of other origin teas under the scheme are required to forward Customs Goods Declaration (Cusdec) duly completed as detailed below in lieu of application for export permit used hitherto.

1. Registration of Customs Goods Declaration – CUSDEC Form for Re-export of Teas Imported under the Scheme

- i. The Exports Section of the Sri Lanka Tea Board registers the Customs Goods Declaration. CUSDEC Forms in duplicate together with Form A, B & C should be submitted for processing in advance.

V<sup>s</sup> i.

In case where the consignment will not be subjected to pre-shipment sampling the endorsement "NOT SELECTED FOR SAMPLING" will be made on the both copies of CUSDEC Forms. If any consignment is selected for sampling, the respective security copy of the CUSDEC Form will not be accepted by the Customs for processing until the stipulated period of two working days (48 hours) from the time of lodgement of the CUSDEC Form at the Tea Export Section has lapsed.

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In instances where the consignment are not selected for sampling, the relevant security copy of the CUSDEC Form will be accepted by the Customs for processing documents.

ii.

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Tea Export Section of the Sri Lanka Tea Board, will carry out sampling of export consignments where necessary within the stipulated 48 hour period mentioned above. After the expiry of the 48-hour period, the security copy of the CUSDEC Form will be accepted by the Customs for processing documents even if the sampling of the consignment had not been carried out by the Tea Export Section.

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The consignments, which are selected for pre-shipment sampling but are not packed and available for sampling within the stipulated 48 hour period is detailed below.

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a). The Tea Commissioner will make the endorsement - "SUBJECT TO PRE-SHIPMENT SAMPLING- ONLY FOR DOCUMENTATION PURPOSES" on both the Tea Board copy and the security copy of the CUSDEC Form enabling the exporter to finalize all documentation formalities of the customs well in advance even though the consignment is not packed and ready for shipment. The Customs, in turn will make an endorsement - "NO BOAT - NOTE TO BE PASSED UNTIL THE SHIPMENT IS AUTHORIZED BY THE SRI LANKA TEA BOARD" on the security copy of the CUSDEC Form.

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b). At the time the consignment is fully packed and ready, the exporter should re-lodge the security copy of the CUSDEC Form confirming the readiness of the consignment for sampling indicating the location of the consignment.

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c) Further to drawing of samples, an endorsement - "SAMPLES DRAWN - SHIPMENT AUTHORIZED" will be made on the security copy of the CUSDEC Form by the Tea Commissioner enabling the exporter to move the consignment to the Port after necessary Customs checks.