



File No. Tea Council/LC/2014/P-I/862

Dated: 29/06/2026
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DIRECTIVE NO: 02/2026

Whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (3) and (5) of section of 30 of the Tea Act, 1953 (29 of 1953) the Central Government has notified the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 (herein after called as the 'said order') to exercise control over export, import and distribution of imported tea.

And whereas, by invoking powers bestowed upon the Board under various paragraphs of the said order, Tea Council of North and South India were constituted vide notification dated 15.10.2012 to assist and advice the Board as per the terms of references one of which is to monitor tea and tea waste imported into India and exported thereafter.

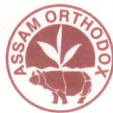
And whereas, vide notification dated 31.01.2025, both the Tea Councils of South and North India were merged and reconstituted as Tea Council Committee of India inter-alia with the objective to monitor the quantity and quality of imported and exported tea.

And whereas, vide notification dated 23.05.2013, online mandatory checking mechanism for export and import of tea was started under which tea samples were drawn and tested by the Board and 'Clearance Certificates' were issued online to each of the applicant.

And whereas, due to operational reasons, drawing and testing of samples were discontinued vide notification dated 31.07.2018. However, Clearance Certificates were continued to be issued online to the applicants which was reiterated vide notification dated 22.12.2021.

And whereas, the Tea Council Committee in its meeting dated 06.03.2025 and 11.06.2025 has highlighted the issue of restarting the testing mechanism which will ensure teas coming into India are of quality equivalent to the standard prevalent in India.

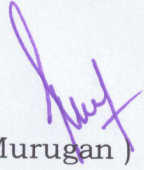
And Whereas, vide Directive No. 01/2026 dated 10.02.2026, 100% testing of teas imported into India was started from 01.05.2026. In the meantime, as per the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Office Memorandum No. K-57012/17/2026-PLANT A dated 19th June 2026, conveying the Record of Discussion of the meeting held on 16.06.2026, the Tea Board, for the time being, has officially authorized the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to carry out 100% testing of imported tea meant for re-export on behalf of the Tea Board. As decided, risk-based testing for imported tea meant for domestic consumption shall continue to be done by FSSAI at the initial rate of 20%.



यदि आप अपना पत्र हिन्दी में लिखेंगे तो उतनी ही जल्दी जवाब मिलेगा, जितना कि अंग्रेजी में लिखने से मिलता है।

Therefore, in exercise of the power under paragraph 34 of the said Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005, and in suppression of the Directive No.1 of 2026 and the corrigendum issued therewith, it is hereby directed that all import consignments of tea meant for re-export shall be mandatorily issued clearance certificate, in order to ensure quality and traceability, in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) enclosed herewith. Tea Board shall continue to issue clearance certificate for imported teas tea meant for domestic consumption.

Any changes, if any, in the said SOP shall be published/circulated/uploaded from time to time on the website of the Board, i.e., www.teaboard.gov.in, under the heading "**Policy and Legislation**".


(C.Murugan)

Licensing Authority & Deputy Chairman Tea Board

Attached: SOP

To

All Licensees issued under Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005 - for information and strict compliance

Copy to:

1	FSSAI	For information
2	Customs	For information
3	All concerned Tea Exporters Associations	For information and necessary action with request to circulate amongst their members and uploading in their respective website.
4	All concerned Tea Producers/ Manufactures / Buyers Associations	For information and necessary action with request to circulate amongst their members and uploading in their respective website
5	Executive Director, Tea Board Guwahati and Tea Board Coonoor	For information and necessary action
6	Controller of Licensing	For information and necessary action
7	DDTD, Siliguri	For information and necessary action
8	All HoDs, Tea Board, Kolkata	For Information
9	IT Cell	For uploading in Board's Website

Standard Operating Procedure to be followed for importing tea into India

For importing tea into India, the importer licensed with Tea Board with valid license number under Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 2005 (TDECO) shall follow the below guidelines;

1. Submission of information of import in the Tea Council Portal (<https://teacouncil.teaauction.gov.in>), viz. tentative date of arrival of shipment, warehouse details for storing of such imported teas, etc. along with number of containers and proforma invoice with bifurcation of Tea Cost, Freight & Insurance.
2. The importer shall pay an application fee of Rs.2000/- plus GST per application, at the time of applying, through the Tea Council portal for the clearance certificate. The applicant shall pay the testing fees as prescribed by FSSAI to the laboratories.
3. The exporter shall upload the complete packaging design, indicating the Country of Origin, through which the imported teas will be re-exported at the time of submission of the application for obtaining the Clearance Certificate prior to export, and not at the initial stage of import.
4. The importer shall be issued with the import clearance certificate by Tea Board through the Tea Council portal. For teas imported meant for re-export, import clearance certificate shall be issued.
5. Upon arrival of the import consignment, FSSAI shall draw sample for sending to the enlisted NABL approved lab for testing of FSSAI parameters.
6. The concerned laboratory selected by FSSAI shall upload the test report within 05 days from date of receipt of sample.
7. The samples that have passed shall be issued with the clearance certificate by Tea Board through the Tea Council portal.
8. Teas imported for export have to be exported within six months from date of import into the country in accordance with the provision of Paragraph 21 of the Tea (Distribution and Export) Control Order, 2005.
9. Instant Tea and Ready-to-Drink (RTD) tea shall be exempted from the sampling requirements
