

**Public Notice**

India is the second largest producer of tea in the world and Indian tea is appreciated worldwide for its quality. It is relished by millions of people in India and abroad as a refreshing and rejoicing drink. Tea occupies an important place not only because of its contribution to the country's economy but also because this sector provides livelihood to a large number of people. Therefore adherence to quality standards is of utmost importance in order to remain competitive in the globalized environment and sustain the industry by improving domestic consumption.

In view of the above, Tea Board as the apex body for the tea industry in India, has undertaken several measures to maintain the quality of India Tea by issuing directives from time to time to the tea producers, buyers, packeteers, etc. In furtherance to these initiatives and to ensure that best quality teas are manufactured during the first flush season, the following directives are hereby being issued:

1. Green leaf standard would be as prescribed by the Board from time to time.
2. Transportation of green leaf from a field to factory should be done at least two times in a day.
3. Green leaf should not be dumped in the transport vehicle and must be packed in leaf carriage bags upto the optimum capacity and stacked upto not more than three levels.
4. Leaf should be transported to the factories within a reasonable time after plucking. Wherever possible, transportation of green leaf is to be arranged by the factory.
5. Factories should reject discoloured, bruised, fermented and scorched leaves.
6. FSSAI standards for tea including the MRL limits for various plant protection formulations permitted for tea must be strictly adhered to by periodical checks.
7. Tea Board will draw random samples from tea factories and from stocks of packeted and bulk tea stored in warehouses, to ascertain adherence to the quality standards. The cost of such sampling and analysis would have to be borne by the owner company. Those teas which fail to conform to the standards shall be treated as tea waste and shall be denatured and/ or destroyed and stringent action would also be initiated against the manufacturers or licensee as per the provisions of the Tea Act 1953 including suspension/ cancellation of registration/ licence as the case may be.