



TEA BOARD
14, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj Sarani
Kolkata – 700001

By Speed Post/Email

Dated: 24.08.2026

Ref: LEGAL-MISC0COMM/14/2026-Legal Cell

CIRCULAR

In 2006, the Tea Board, vide reference no. 4(50)/LC/2006/1335, issued guidelines to all tea manufacturers within the Darjeeling GI to follow certain norms pertaining to the procurement of green leaf, maintenance of green leaf registers, and submission of an undertaking not to purchase any green leaf from outside the area demarcated for the Darjeeling GI under the Geographical Indications (Regulation and Protection) Act, 1999. Similar circulars were also issued vide reference no. Law/18/2012/1543 dated 17.09.2015, and Law/Per/38/2020 dated 15.01.2021.

It has come to the Board's notice that certain manufacturers adjacent to the international border are purchasing green leaf from gardens/growers situated outside the Darjeeling GI area.

Furthermore, it has been noted that some manufacturers are sourcing green leaf from a few temporarily closed units without proper documentation. Such sourcing of green leaf has an adverse impact on the protection of the Darjeeling GI, which cannot be permitted.

Therefore, in furtherance to the Circulars issued vide reference nos. 4(50)/LC/2006/1335, Law/18/2012/1543, and Law/Per/38/2020, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Paragraph 13(3) of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003, the following directives are issued for strict compliance:

1. No manufacturer of Darjeeling tea shall purchase green leaf from outside the area demarcated for the Darjeeling GI.
2. Manufacturers sourcing green leaf from within the GI area shall upload the details to <https://darjeelingtea.teaboard.gov.in>, the portal developed for the traceability of Darjeeling tea.
3. Every manufacturer of Darjeeling tea shall submit an undertaking, as per the enclosed format, on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rupees Ten (₹10) by **31st August 2026** to the IPR Cell of the Tea Board, Kolkata.

Non-compliance may lead to the disruption of the issuance of the Certificate of Origin by the Board.

Violation of the aforesaid directions may invite appropriate action under the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Geographical Indications (Regulation and Protection) Act, 1999, the Copyright Act, 1957, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, including the suspension and cancellation of Factory Registration issued under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003.

Enclosed: As stated



(C. Murugan)

Deputy Chairman, Tea Board & Registering Authority

To,

1. 87 recognized tea gardens of Darjeeling GI
2. 05 Mini Tea Factories operating with in Darjeeling GI

Copy to:

DTA, ITA & TIPPA	For information and circulation amongst members for necessary action
DDTD, Tea Board, Siliguri	For information and necessary action
IPR Cell, Tea Board	With request initiate action against noncompliance from time to time.
M/s LSIPL	With request to immediately bring the noncompliance to IPR Cell
IT Cell, Tea Board	For uploading in Boards website

UNDERSTANDING

I/we hereby declare and undertake that I/we and/or Certificate Trade Mark (CTM) registered tea manufacturers having tea factories/estates operating in tea gardens of Scheduled tea growing areas of Darjeeling.

That I/we further declare that I/we shall not purchase any Green Leaf from any tea garden of the Scheduled areas of Darjeeling that have no registration of CTM with the Tea Board India.

That I/we also declare that I/we shall not purchase any Green Leaf from any tea garden, located beyond the geographical areas of Scheduled tea manufacturers of made tea in the geographical area of Darjeeling for which I/we have valid CTM Registration with the Tea Board India.

My/our Darjeeling CTM Registration Number is _____ and the same is valid upto _____

The aforesaid declaration and undertaking given by me/us are true to the best of my/our knowledge and belief. In the event of any breach of this Undertaking, Tea Board, India will be entitled to institute all available civil and criminal remedies against me/us or my/our exposure and cost.

Signature

Name

Place

Date

Official Seal

*Seal and signature is not applicable

I am Subscribed I and I appended below the Regulations of the Certification Trade Mark of Darjeeling of the Tea Board of India

2 and