

Sri Lanka Tea Board Minimum Quality Standards (MQS) for "Other Origin Tea"

These 'Sri Lanka Tea Board directives' has been issued under the regulatory power vested by Sri Lanka Tea Board Law No. 14 of 1975, Tea Control Act No. 51 of 1957 and Tea (Tax and Control of Export) Act No. 16 of 1959 and their subsequent amendments aiming to minimize the presence of health risk hazard/s for its consumers.

Under the Sri Lanka Tea Board (Import and export) Regulations 1981, any registered tea exporter is given permission to import 'other origin tea' for blending and re-export thereafter following the terms and conditions therein the Regulations.

Note: In addition to the following criterion, concerned parties should be guided by the standards applicable in the respective destination country as required by the importer.

1) Basic Requirements for 'Black Tea': ISO 3720: 2011

Characteristic	Requirement	Test Method Ref.
	<u>Black Tea</u>	
1. Water extract, mass fraction	min. 32 %	ISO 9768:1994
2. Total Ash, mass fraction	min. 4% - max. 8%	ISO 1575:1987
3. Water - soluble ash, mass fraction of total ash	min. 45%	ISO 1576:1988
4. Alkalinity of water-soluble ash (as KOH), mass fraction	min. 1.0% - max. 3.0%	ISO 1578:1975
5. Acid insoluble ash, mass fraction	max. 1.0%	ISO 1577:1987
6. Crude fibre, mass fraction	max. 16.5%	ISO 15598:1999
7. Total polyphenols, mass fraction	min. 9%	ISO 14502-1:2005

2) Basic Requirements for 'Green Tea': ISO 11287: 2011

Characteristic	Requirement	Test Method Ref.
	<u>Green Tea</u>	
1. Water extract, mass fraction	min. 32 %	ISO 9768:1994
2. Total Ash, mass fraction	min. 4% - max. 8%	ISO 1575:1987
3. Water - soluble ash, Mass fraction of total ash	min. 45%	ISO 1576:1988
4. Alkalinity of water-soluble ash (As KOH), mass fraction	min. 1.0% - max. 3.0%	ISO 1578:1975
5. Acid insoluble ash, mass fraction	max. 1.0%	ISO 1577:1987
6. Crude fibre, mass fraction	max. 16.5%	ISO 15598:1999
7. Total catechins, mass fraction	min. 7%	ISO 14502-2:2005
8. Total polyphenols, mass fraction	min. 11%	ISO 14502-1:2005
9. Ratio total catechins to total polyphenols, mass fraction	min. 0.5	-

3) Moisture Content: Moisture content of tea at the point of importation - Max 6.5 %
(Applicable Test Methodology should be compliance with ISO 1573: 1980)

4) Foreign Matter/ Extraneous Matters - Completely free

(Teas should comply with ISO 3720:2011 and ISO 11287:2011 parameters specified above)

5) Detectable Metals:

<u>Name of Metal</u>	<u>Acceptable Limit</u>	<u>Test Method/s</u>
1. Iron (as ferrous)	- max. 300 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
2. Copper	- max. 100 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
3. Lead	- max. 2 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
4. Zinc	- max. 100 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
5. Cadmium	- max. 0.2 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
6. Mercury	- max. 0.3 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
7. Arsenic	- max 0.05 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
8. Chromium	- max 1.0 mg/kg	AAS/ICP-MS/OES
9. Rare-Earth Elements (16 Nos)-	max 2.0 mg/kg	ICP-MS/OES
10. Sodium	- max. 0.7% (m/m)	AFS/FFM

(AAS - Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry; ICP - Inductive Coupled Plasma Spectroscopy - MS/OES; AFS - Atomic Flame Emission Spectrophotometry and FFM - Flame Photometry Techniques, wherever applicable)

6) Microbiological Requirement:

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Requirement</i>		<i>Test Method Ref.</i>
	<i>Black Tea</i>	<i>Green Tea</i>	
Total Plate Count	Max. 10,000 cfu/g		ISO 4833-1: 2013
Yeast & Moulds Count	max.1,000 cfu/g		ISO 21527-2: 2008*
Total Coliform Count	max.10 MPN/g		ISO 4831: 2006
E-Coli	Absent / g		ISO 7251: 2005
Salmonella	Absent / 25 g		ISO 6579:2002
*Note:			
1). Teas under damp/ wet condition (Water activity, $A_w > 95\%$) are required to use test method:: ISO 21527-1: 2008.			
2). In addition to the above, concerned parties should be guided by the standards applicable in the destination country as required by the importer.			

7) Pesticide Residues:

Note: The MRLs given below for the respective pesticides could be used as the accepted standards established by the Sri Lanka Tea Board under the 'Sri Lanka (Import & Export) Regulations 1981 - Scheme for import of tea for blending and export thereafter, unless otherwise not amended by the Registrar of Pesticides in Sri Lanka and/or the Director, Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka.

<i>Name of the Pesticide</i>	<i>Maximum Residues Limit (MRL), mg/kg (ppm)</i>
Brunolium	Exempted
Calcium hydroxide	Exempted
Chlorantranilprole	0.02
Copper hydroxide	40 (as Cu)

Copper oxide	40 (as Cu)
Diazinon	0.05
Diuron	0.05
Fipronil	0.002
Fluopyram	0.05
Glufosinate ammonium	0.10
Glyphosate	0.1
Hexaconazole	0.01
Methylisocyanate/Metam	0.02
Oxyfluorfen	0.01
Propiconazole	0.10
Sulphur	Exempted
Tebuconazole	0.05

8) Non-Pesticide Residues:

Name of the

Substance *Maximum Residues Limit (MRL), mg/kg (ppm)*

Anthroquinone	0.01
2,6-DIPN	0.01
PAH (16 PAHs)	0.01
Gluten	0.01

An issuance of updated Sri Lanka Tea Board Directives for tea is subject to periodical revision, as decided by the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

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