



**TEA BOARD**  
**14, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj Sarani**  
**Kolkata - 700001**

Ref: Law/IPR/21/2020

**By Speed Post**  
Dated: 11.11.2021

**CIRCULAR**

In order to restrict distribution of substandard imported teas in India, Tea Board issued circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 whereby all importers of tea into India were under the obligation to inform the place of storage of such imported tea to the nearest Tea Boards office within 24 hours of storage of such imported teas in such places.

It has now come to the notice of the Board that very few importers are complying the direction issued in the year 2014 thereby violating the provisions of Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 2005 which may lead to suspension and cancellation of their licenses.

In order to restrict distribution of substandard imported teas in India and to ensure that any imported teas are not passed off as teas of India origin, the Licensing Authority of the Board in exercise of the power under Paragraph 34 of the Tea (Distribution & Export) Control Order, 2005 hereby issue the following directives for immediate compliance.

1. All importers importing tea into India for the purpose of distribution shall inform the place of storage of such imported tea to the nearest Tea Board office within 24 hours of storage of such imported teas in such places. Random samples will be collected by Tea Board from the stock of such imported tea meant for distribution in India for the purpose of ascertaining whether such samples conform to the requirements laid down for tea or not.
2. All importers importing teas into India shall ensure that origin of such imported teas is mentioned in all their sale invoices;

3. In the event it comes to the notice of the Board that any importer has passed off such imported teas as teas of Indian origin, action for suspension and cancellation of their license shall be initiated.
4. A standard clause as to compliance of labeling guidelines as enumerated in FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (LABELLING AND DISPLAY) REGULATIONS issued by FSSAI from time to time may be inserted in all contract for sale/ offer for sale of such imported teas



(Dr.K.N.Raghavan)  
Deputy Chairman, Tea Board  
& Registering Authority

To: All Importers and Buyers

Copy to:

The Executive Director, Tea Board Guwahati	For information, circulation to the stakeholders In Northeast India and for necessary action
The Executive Director, Tea Board, Coonoor	For information, circulation to the stakeholders In South India and for necessary action
The Controller of Licensing, Tea Board, Kolkata	For information, circulation to the stakeholders In rest of India and for necessary action
All respective Associations of Producers, Traders and Packers	For information
IT Cell	For uploading in Boards website