



टी बोर्ड भारत Tea Board India
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Dated: 11/05/2022

NOTICE

Subject: Determination of maximum percentage of flavour to be allowed to mix with tea for manufacturing of flavoured tea.

As per the Notification No.G.S.R. 694 (E) dated 11th October 1999 issued by Department of Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Flavoured Tea manufacturers shall register themselves with Tea Board before marketing of Flavoured Tea. Accordingly, Tea Board issues flavoured tea registration certificates to the manufacturers of Flavoured Tea.


As per Chapter 2.10.1 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 tea may contain "natural flavours" and "natural flavouring substances" which are flavour preparations and single substance respectively, acceptable for human consumption, obtained exclusively by physical processes from materials of plants origin either in their natural state or after processing for human consumption. However, there is no mention about the maximum percentage of flavour which can be mixed with tea for manufacturing of Flavoured Tea. Although, Tea Board advises the manufacturers to keep maximum amount of tea in the flavoured tea to retain the original quality, aroma, etc. of this popularised beverage, there have been instances where a flavoured tea manufacturer uses minimum amount of tea (less than 51% even) and maximum amount of flavour in the product which ultimately tends to reduce the original and special characteristics of tea as a whole. It is pertinent to mention that Tea Board being the facilitating body of Tea has the mandate to promote tea in any form including value added products like flavoured tea, etc., which is a demand of the present consumers, but the same cannot be done at the cost of compromising with the inherent, unique characteristics of this globally acclaimed beverage "Tea". Therefore, in recent past Board took initiative to fix an upper cap of flavour upto which a single flavour or a combination of different flavours can be mixed with tea which ultimately complies with all the parameters laid down by FSSAI for tea without compromising with the characteristics of tea.

In this regard, Board deliberated the matter with Tea Research Association (TRA), United Planters' Association of South India (UPASI) and other tea associations across all tea growing regions of India. The matter was discussed in detail and accordingly it was decided to obtain suggestions from TRA and UPASI based on the scientific data and analysis.

TRA and UPASI have conducted detailed study on various flavoured teas containing different percentages of flavour in terms of the FSSAI parameters ("Total Ash", "Water soluble ash", "Acid insoluble ash", "Alkalinity of water soluble ash", "Crude fibre", "Water extract", "Total catechins") as well as Quality parameters (TF, TR, HPS & TLC). Based on the study, UPASI has recommended addition of natural flavouring substances upto 5% with tea, whereas TRA has suggested to mix certain flavours upto 10% and other flavours upto 7.5%.

Given importance to the quality aspect as well as compliance with the FSSAI parameters, it is now proposed by the Board that the manufacturers of flavoured tea shall be allowed to add natural flavours and natural flavouring substances **upto 5.00%** only as single flavour or as a blend of different flavours with tea. Addition of flavour beyond 5.00% shall not be considered for issuance of flavoured tea registration certificate by Tea Board.

The content of this notice may be brought to the knowledge of all concerned members for information and their views, if any, to be forwarded to this office **by 15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this notice for taking final decision in the matter by the Board. Any comments/feedback received after 15 days from the date of issuance of this notice shall not be entertained by the Board.


(Dr. Rishikesh Rai)
Secretary

Distribution:

1. All manufacturer associations
2. All buyer associations
3. Tea Research Association (TRA)
4. United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI)
5. IT Cell – for uploading in the website of Tea Board