



टी बोर्ड भारत Tea Board India

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Ref. No. 6(29)/LC/Auction/Dust Tea/2024/

Dated 22 .04.2024

Circular

Subject: Sale of 100% dust grade of tea through auction

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Circular No.367 dated 08.03.2024 and subsequent interactive meeting held with the industry stakeholders on 19.03.2023 at Tea Board's Head Quarter, Kolkata under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Plantation) on the subject cited above. As discussed in the meeting, the Committee constituted for overall monitoring of the auctions of 100% dust grade of tea has been revised vide Order No.384 dated 01.04.2024 as under:

1. Smt Rajanigandha Seal Naskar, Controller of Licensing, Tea Board
2. Shri Hemant Bangur, Chairman, Indian Tea Association (ITA)
3. Shri Ajay Jalan, Member, Tea Association of India (TAI).
4. Shri Deboshyam Barua, Chairman, Assam Tea Planters Association (ATPA)
5. Shri Gautam Beria, Secretary, Assam Bought Leaf Tea Manufacturer's Association (ABLTMA)
6. Shri Mohit Agarwal, Director, Indian Tea Exporters Association (ITEA)
7. Shri Aurobinda Nayak, Honorary Secretary, Federation of All India Tea Traders Association (FAITTA)
8. Shri Gaurav Ghosh, Chairman, Association of Tea Auctioneers (ATA)

Shri Ajay Dhandharia, Chairman, North Eastern Tea Association had resigned from the Committee since 14.03.2024.

The Committee was mandated to frame standard operating procedures (SOP) aiming to resolve certain issues raised in the aforesaid meeting regarding implementation of 100% dust tea auction. Accordingly, the Committee has drafted and submitted the SOP to Board. In terms of paragraph 13 of the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 and as directed by Ministry of Commerce & Industry vide letter No.K-57023/17/2023-PLANT-A dated 19.04.2024, the SOP is circulated herewith for compliance by all concerned in the matter of implementing 100% dust tea auction.

The content of this circular may be brought to the notice of all members under the jurisdiction of the respective associations.

This issues with the approval of Deputy Chairman.

Encl: As stated

Raskar

(Rajanigandha Seal Naskar)
Controller of Licensing

Distribution:

1.	Additional Secretary (Plantation)	For kind perusal and information
2.	All Tea Producer Association	For information and circulation amongst their members
3.	All Buyer Association	
4.	All Exporter Association	
5.	All Registered Auction Organaiser	
6.	Association of Tea Auctioneer (ATA)	
7.	All Warehouse Association	For information
8.	All Small Tea Grower Association	
9.	Committee Members	
10.	Executive Director, Coonoor & Guwahati	For uploading in Board's website
11.	DDTD, Siliguri	
12.	System Analyst	

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

1. The various Associations will conduct intensive outreach activities with the growers with immediate effect to handhold them for the requirements, and transition, for bringing 100% Dust Tea to Auctions. 100% Dust Tea through auction will be ensured for all teas having **Factory Gate pass date** from 1st **May** 2024 until 30th **June** 2024.

2. Two times out lots may be withdrawn and sold in private channel if the sellers wish to.

3. Once within the 3 months period the samples will be tested through a Panel of Independent NABL accredited Laboratory who will also draw the samples from the auction warehouses. The cost for the testing will be borne by the sellers. FSSAI mandates the seller to test their product twice a year and record the result, and the first test will be in this account. The tests would be conducted for 59 chemicals as per the latest FSSAI Notifications. Labs where the teas can be tested may be from either of the below mentioned labs (NABL Accredited and Tea Board Approved):

- a) Eurofins
- b) Eureka Analytical Labs
- c) Intertek
- d) TUV SUD
- e) Tea Board's Own lab / Tlab

The process of random selection of marks and labs where it has to be tested, will be done by respective auction organisers, using AI and Algorithms, under the aegis of Tea Board. The brokers will help in creating the software and helping the auction organisers in this regards.

4. Catalogue closing time from the current practise of 19 days to be brought down to 17 days before the date of Sale to start with, and further making efforts to bring it down to 15 days. This will entail bringing of catch lot system, which must be followed by brokers. Cataloguing must start from the very second day of arrivals, so that sampling can start immediately and not wait for the full catalogue to close.

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5. The lab after having received the List, should ensure visit to all auction warehouses immediately and draw two set of samples of 200 grams of each invoice. Lab should timely share the soft copy of all the results of the entire list of samples with the Tea Board, FSSAI and auction organizers well before the date of Auction, who will inform all concerned. Control (second set) sample will be sealed and signed and left with warehouse keepers, which the seller can use for appeal purposes if required.

6. The minimum lot size would be 20 Pkgs from June to October. However, division may be allowed above 30 packages. Buyers want the sale to be completed in 2 and half days, hence appropriate lot sizes may be notified. This will entail both rationalisation of sampling and adding benefit to sellers, as well as auctions being able to handle expected large volumes in forthcoming sales.

7. Siliguri 2 should be activated so that 2 windows operate at the same time, one for CTC Leaf and one for CTC Dust.

8. Directive to all registered buyers, packers and exporters to buy this category only from the auctions. Any violation both by sellers & buyers will entail penal action, including cancellation of license under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 (TMCO, 2003).

N.B.: The procedure mentioned at Sl. No.6 & 7 above shall be implemented subject to change in the online auction portal within the scheduled time frame.