

Tea Sampling Protocol

trustea Sustainable Tea Foundation

tSTF TSP01

Issue date – May 2024



GENERAL:

The Trustea Standard is aimed at protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the tea trade. The prescribed method of sampling is designed to ensure that fair and valid sampling procedures are used when tea is being tested for compliance with a particular commodity standard. The sampling methods are intended for use as methods designed to avoid or remove difficulties that may be created by diverging legal, administrative, and technical approaches to sampling and by diverging interpretations of results of analysis in relation to lots or consignments of tea, in the light of the relevant provision(s) of the trustea standard. A lot is a definite quantity of tea manufactured or produced under conditions, which are presumed uniform for the purpose of these Guidelines.

For samples to be drawn for monitoring purposes, the personnel from approved institutions/labs should be involved as per the approved protocol based on the susceptibility of the product.

Sample collectors should collect samples from the tea factory in the presence of external witnesses.

These samples are appropriately divided, packed, and sealed. A sample pick-up report, with other observations and comments, is prepared and signed by the authorized person/owner and the witness.

As only one sample is picked up randomly, no statistical inferences can be concluded.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

For manufactured tea, it is necessary to decide the number and the process of samples to be sampled.

i) The total collected sample size will be between 600 - 750 Grams in 3 equal parts, 200 - 250 grams each.

ii) Sample will be taken from a drier mouth in a random manner so that each package in a lot has an equal chance of being selected.

iii) Selected samples will be sealed and signed by the respective collector and the company authority.

The sample will be sent for testing to trustea empanelled NABC accredited laboratory. Sealed counter-samples will be retained with the entity and trustea. The authorized person for sample collection will bear the courier cost and raise submit the invoice to trustea for reimbursement of the same.

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iv) Final laboratory samples must be prepared and transmitted to the laboratory for testing without delay.

v) The authorized collector will carry a copy of trustea authorization for the sample collection with other necessary equipment.

Sampling should be done with a proper statistical design which will help cover the regulatory and monitoring issues for safe tea production and maintain transparency in the sample selection procedure. Samples should be dispatched to the Public Analyst as soon as practically possible to avoid any discrepancies in testing.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING:

Representative sampling is a procedure used for drawing or forming a representative sample. This will be considered in case group certification, where a sample from one unit will represent the group if the source of raw material is being shared by other units in the group. For example – common suppliers (STGs) who are supplying multiple units under a single certificate or a common division that is catering to multiple factories under a single certificate.

SAMPLING REPRESENTATIVE:

TSTF will nominate the representative authorized to carry out the sampling. The concerned person will be trained on the process, communication and handling procedures for the purpose of sampling.

SCOPE OF SAMPLING:

All kinds of entities, those are registered with trustea including the entities that are at the gap assessment phase are also eligible to be tested. By registering in trustea portal, the entity will be automatically considered under this terms of sample testing without any prior intimations.

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DETAILS OF THE CHEMICALS:

The names of the chemicals to be tested additionally apart from the approved chemical list by FSSAI & PPC are attached in the Annexure I

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS:

The results of the approved laboratory will be communicated to tSTF directly as soon as it is available and tSTF will share the same to the entity as applicable. The entity will be given the opportunity to accept or dispute the results within 48 hours of receipt. In case of acceptance, the entity will be apprised of the actions thereof. In case of dispute, the counter sample of the entity will be tested at the entity's cost. tSTF will decide on the outcome based on the retest. tSTF reserves the right to retest the tSTF retained counter sample. The decision on the same can be appealed by the entity and will be heard by the Appeals Committee of tSTF for resolution. The Appeals Committee's decision will be final and binding.

PROCEDURE OF HOLDING NOC FOR THE YET-TO-BE-CERTIFIED ENTITIES:

1. In such an eventuality, the entity will be informed of the test result.
2. If the entity accepts the results, then the NOC from IP will not be issued.
3. If the entity does not accept then it has the right to ask for a retest of the retained counter sample at its own cost.
4. The decision will be on hold till the results come.
5. The NOC will not be issued if such a result is confirmed and this will be continued until the entity asks for a resampling from the program to confirm compliance and based on the result, if it is found to be compliant with PPC and FSSAI (latest Version) then the NOC will be issued.

PROCEDURE OF DECERTIFICATION FOR THE CERTIFIED ENTITIES:

1. In such an eventuality, the entity will be informed of the test result.
2. If the entity accepts the results, then the certificate will be canceled.

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3. If the entity does not accept then it has the right to ask for a retest of the retained counter sample at its own cost.

4. The decision will be on hold till the results come

5. The entity will be decertified if such a result is confirmed and the decertification will be continued until the entity asks for a resampling from the program to confirm compliance and based on the result, if it is found to be compliant with PPC and FSSAI (latest Version) then the decertification will be discontinued.

(In the current trustea protocol if any banned chemical is found in the premises of the tea estate or the STG the certified entity will be decertified for 1 year)

The facility has to mandatorily comply with the sampling requirement for confirmation that no banned chemical is present in the tea produced if any sampling request is made by the program.

REVIEW RESULT:	REVIEWED BY: Anandita Ray Mukherjee
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Annexure I – List of Chemicals for testing

Annexure II – Latter for sample collection

Annexure III - Memorandum to Authorized Sample Collector

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Annexure - I

Approved Acaricides as per PPC version 16.0

Sl. No.	Name of PPFs	MRL (mg/kg)	PHI (Days)
1	Cyflumetofen 20 SC	0.05	5
2	Ethion 50 EC	5.0	3
3	Etoxazole 10 SC	15.0	5
4	Etoxazole 6% + Abamectin 1.5% SC	Etoxazole 15.0 Abamectin (MRL yet to be notified)	3
5	Fenazaquin 10 EC	3.0	7
6	Fenazaquin 18.3% SC		7
7	Fenpyroximate 5 EC/SC	6.0	7
8	Flufenzine 20 SC	MRL yet to be notified	7
9	Fenazaquin 10% + Bifenthrin 4% EC	Fenazaquin 3.0 Bifenthrin 30.0	7
10	Hexythiazox 5.45 EC	15.0	5
11	Propargite 57 EC	10.0	7
12	Propargite 42% +Hexythiazox 2%EC	Propargite 10.0 Hexythiazox 15.0	7
13	Pyridaben 20% WP	MRL yet to be notified	7
14	Sulphur 80 WP		
15	Sulphur 40 WP	Not required	
16	Sulphur 52 SC		
17	Spiromesifen 22.9 SC	70.0	7

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Approved Insecticides as per PPC version 16.0

Sl. No.	Name of PPFs	MRL (ppm)	PHI (Days)
18	Azadirachtin 1 EC		
19	Azadirachtin 5 EC		
20	Bifenthrin 8 SC	30.0	11
21	Clothianidin 50 WDG	0.7	5
22	Deltamethrin 2.8 EC	5.0	3
23	Deltamethrin 11 EC		15
24	Dimethoate 30 % EC	MRL yet to be notified	
25	Emamectin Benzoate 5 SG	0.06	1
26	Emamectin Benzoate 3% +Thiamethoxam 12% WG	Emamectin Benzoate 0.06 Thiamethoxam 20.0	7
27	Fenpropathrin 30 EC	2.0	7
28	Flubendiamide 20 WG	50.0	7
29	Flubendiamide 19.92% w/w + Thiacloprid 19.92% w/w SC	Flubendiamide 50.0 Thiacloprid 5.0	7
30	Flupyradifurone 17.09% w/w SL	MRL yet to be notified	7
31	Quinalphos 25 EC	0.7	7
32	Spirotetramat 15.31% w/w OD	MRL yet to be notified	7
33	Thiacloprid 21.7 SC	5.0	7
34	Thiamethoxam 25 WG	20.0	7
35	Thiamethoxam 12.6% + L- Cyhalothrin 9.5%	Thiamethoxam 20.0 L-Cyhalothrin 0.05	7

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Approved Fungicides as per PPC version 16.0

Sl. No.	Name of PPFs	MRL (ppm)	PHI (Days)
36	Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% WP	Carbendazim= 0.5 Mancozeb= 3.0	7
37	Copper Oxychloride	150.0 (as elemental copper)	
38	Hexaconazole 4% + Zineb 68% WP	Zineb 0.1	7
39	Hexaconazole 5 EC	5.0	7
40	Propiconazole 25 EC	6.0	7
41	Tetraconazole 3.8% w/w (4% w/v)	MRL yet to be notified	7
42	Trifloxystrobin 25% + Tebuconazole 50% WG	MRL yet to be notified	7

Approved Herbicides as per PPC version 16.0

Sl. No.	Name of PPFs	MRL (ppm)	PHI (Days)
43	Glyphosate 41 SL	1.0	21
44	Glyphosate 71 SG		7
45	Glyphosate Ammonium Salt 5 SL		7
46	Glufosinate Amonium 13.5 SL	0.01	15
47	Oxyfluorfen 23.5 EC	0.2	15
48	Paraquat Dichloride 24 WSC	0.2	15
49	Paraquat Dichloride 24% + Oxyfluorfen 5%	Paraquat Dichloride 0.2 Oxyfluorfen 0.2	7

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	SC		
50	Oxyfluorfen 2.5% + Isopropyl amine salt of Glyphosate 41% w/w SC	Oxyfluorfen 0.2 Glyphosate 1.0	14
51	Carfentrazone Ethyl 0.43% + Glyphosate 30.82% EW	Carfentrazone Ethyl 0.02* Glyphosate 1.0	7
52	Indaziflam 1.65% w/w + Glyphosate-isopropyl ammonium 44.63% w/w SC	Indaziflam (MRL yet to be notified) Glyphosate 1.0	14
53	Saflufenacil 70 % WG	MRL yet to be notified	7
54	Triasulfuron 20% WG	MRL yet to be notified	7
55	2,4-D amine salt 58 % WSC	0.05	
56	Glufosinate Ammonium 13.4% + Oxyfluorfen 4.8% w/w	Glufosinate Ammonium 0.01 Oxyfluorfen 0.2	10

Banned/Non-approved Pesticides for Tea vide FSSAI notification dated 29-11-23 and 04-03-24

Sl. No.	Name of Pesticide	Date of Notification
1	Aldicarb	29-11-2023
2	Aldrin, Dieldrin	
3	Chlordane	
4	Heptachlor	
5	Lindane	
6	Endosulfan	

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7	Carbofuran	BANNED Pesticides as Mandatory FSSAI Test Parameter
8	Methomyl	
9	Phosphamidon	
10	Captafol	
11	Ferbam	
12	Formothion	
13	Simazine	
14	Diazinon	
15	D.D.T	
16	Fenitrothion	
17	Fenthion	
18	Methyl Parathion	
19	Ethyl Parathion	
20	Monocrotophos	
21	Cypermethrin	04-03-2024
22	Acephate	NON-APPROVED
23	Imidacloprid	Pesticides as Mandatory FSSAI Test
24	Acetamiprid	Parameter
25	Dinotefuran	
26	Fipronil	

FSSAI MRLs for Banned/Non-approved Pesticides in Tea

Banned Pesticides	MRL (mg/kg)
Aldicarb	0.01
Aldrin, Dieldrin	0.01
Chlordane	0.01
Heptachlor	0.01
Lindane	0.01

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Endosulfan	0.01
Carbofuran	0.01
Methomyl	0.01
Phosphamidon	0.01
Captafol	0.01
Ferbam	0.01
Formothion	0.01
Simazine	0.01
Diazinon	0.01
D.D.T	0.05
Fenitrothion	0.01
Fenthion	0.01
Methyl Parathion	0.01
Ethyl Parathion	0.01
Monocrotophos	0.01
Cypermethrin	0.01
Acephate	0.01
Imidacloprid	0.01
Acetamiprid	0.01
Dinotefuran	0.01
Fipronil	0.01

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Annexure II

To

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Dear Sir/s/ Madam:

I have this day taken from premises ofsituate at..... samples of made tea specified below to have the same analysed by the NABL Accredited Lab for chemicals mentioned in trustea's guidelines for testing .

Details of sample:

Code number:

Name & Signature of the sample collector:

Place:

Date:

Address:

Name and Signature of the authorized person from the Entity:

Contact details:

Date:

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Annexure III

Memorandum to Authorized Sample Collector

From:

Date: _____

To

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MEMORANDUM

1. The sample described below is sent herewith for analysis under the guidelines of trustea based on FSSAI latest notice dated 29th Nov 2023 & 4th March 2024 to 'All FSSAI Notified Laboratories under section 43(1) and 43(2) of FSS Act, 2006.

- I. Code Number
- II. Date and place of collection
- III. Nature of articles submitted for analysis

2. A copy of this memo and specimen impression, of the seal used to seal the packet of sample are being sent separately by post/courier/hand delivery (strike out whichever is not applicable)

(Sd/) Authorized person's Address: