

INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION



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Circular No. 6/2024-25

ROYAL EXCHANGE
6 NETAJI SUBHAS ROAD
KOLKATA 700 001

22nd April, 2024

TO : ALL MEMBER COMPANIES

MRL Compliance

With the growing awareness on MRL compliance, members' attention is invited to the following protocols with regard to pesticides in tea in India :

1. Protocol for Use

- a. There are presently 33 pesticides for which Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) have been gazetted by the FSSAI. The list is attached as **Annexure – 1**.
- b. In addition, the undernoted pesticides have been granted label claim on Tea by the Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC).

SI No.	PPFs
1	Abamectin
2	Flufenzine
3	Pyridaben
4	Dimethoate
5	Flupyradifurone
6	Spirotetramat
7	Tetraconazole
8	Trifloxystrobin
9	Tebuconazole
10	Indaziflam
11	Saflufenacil
12	Triasulfuron

- c. The above 12 pesticides are in the approved list of the Plant Protection Code of Tea Board (**Annexure – 2**). Pending assignment of MRLs by the FSSAI for the 12 pesticides, these would have to be kept at LOQ (0.01ppm) level.

d. Members may note that apart from the above referred 45 pesticides, no other pesticides are approved for use in Tea and therefore the application of pesticides in Tea should be limited to the following :

- ✓ 33 pesticides for which MRLs have been set by the FSSAI.
- ✓ 12 pesticides as stated above for which label claim on Tea has been assigned by the Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee (CIB&RC). The MRLs for these 12 pesticides would be at LOQ level i.e. 0.01 ppm.

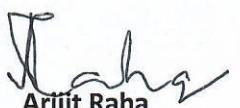
2. Protocol for Testing

- a. The FSSAI vide a Circular dated 29th November, 2023 has banned 20 chemicals for use in Tea. The banned list of pesticides is attached as **Annexure – 3**.
- b. In addition, the FSSAI vide a directive dated 4th March 2024 (**Annexure 4**) has included the following six pesticides in the testing protocol for Tea –
 - i. Cypermethrin
 - ii. Acephate
 - iii. Imidacloprid
 - iv. Acetamiprid
 - v. Dinotefuran
 - vi. Fipronil

Therefore, although the use of pesticides in Tea would be limited to the 45 pesticides referred above, the testing protocol for Tea pursuant to the recent FSSAI Directives would include the following :

- ✓ 33 pesticides for which MRLs have been notified by the FSSAI – ref. Annexure 1
- ✓ 20 pesticides banned by the FSSAI – ref. Annexure 3
- ✓ 6 pesticides stipulated by the FSSAI for testing in tea – ref. Point 2b above.

The above is for members' information and necessary action. For any clarification, members may kindly revert.



Arijit Raha
Secretary General

Encl : As above

Copy to : Chairman, Vice Chairman and Addl. Vice Chairman, ITA
All Regional Committees, ITA
All Branch and Zone Secretaries, ITA

Annexure 1**List of 33 Chemicals with MRL notified by FSSAI**

SI No	Name of the chemical	MRL (ppm)
1	Bifenthrin	30
2	Bitertanol	0.05
3	Carbendazim	0.5
4	Carfentrazone ethyl	0.02
5	Chlorpyriphos	2
6	Chlothianidin	0.7
7	Deltamethrin	5
8	Dicofol	40
9	Mancozeb	3
10	Zineb as CS2	0.1
11	Emamectin Benzoate	0.06
12	Ethion	5
13	Etoxazole	15
14	Fenazaquin	3
15	Fenpropathrin	2
16	Fenpyroximate	6
17	Flubendiamide	50
18	Fluvalinate	0.01
19	Glufosinate Ammonium	0.01
20	Glyphosate	1
21	Hexaconazole	5
22	Hexythiazox	15
23	Lambda cyhalothrin	0.05
24	Oxyfluorfen	0.2
25	Paraquat dichloride	0.2
26	Propargite	10
27	Propiconazole	6
28	Quinalphos	0.7
29	Spiromesifen	70
30	Thiacloprid	5
31	Thiamethoxam	20
32	2,4-D Amine Salt	0.05
33	Cyflumetofen	0.05

List of CIB&RC approved Plant Protection Formulations for use in Tea plantations along with their MRLs fixed by FSSAI [Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues), Third Amendment Regulations, 2018 (effective from 3.1.2019)]

Type of PPFs	Sl. No.	Name of PPFs	MRL (ppm)
Acaricides	1	Cyflumetofen 20 SC	0.05*
	2	Ethion 50 EC	5.0
	3	Etoxazole 10 SC	15.0
	4	Etoxazole 6% + Abamectin 1.5% SC	Etoxazole=15.0 Abamectin= MRL yet to be notified
	5	Fenazaquin 10 EC	3.0
	6	Fenazaquin 18.3% SC	
	7	Fenpyroximate 5 EC/SC	6.0**
	8	Flufenzine 20 SC	MRL yet to be notified
	9	Fenazaquin 10% + Bifenthrin 4% EC	Fenazaquin= 3.0 Bifenthrin= 30.0
	10	Hexythiazox 5.45 EC	15.0
	11	Propargite 57 EC	10.0
	12	Propergite 42% +Hexythiazox 2%EC	Propergite= 10.0 Hexythiazox= 15.0
	13	Pyridaben 20% WP	MRL yet to be notified
	14	Sulphur 80 WP	
	15	Sulphur 40 WP	Not required
	16	Sulphur 52 SC	
	17	Spiromesifen 22.9 SC	70.0
Insecticides	18	Azadirachtin 1 EC	-
	19	Azadirachtin 5 EC	
	20	Bifenthrin 8 SC	30.0
	21	Clothianidin 50 WDG	0.7
	22	Deltamethrin 2.8 EC	
	23	Deltamethrin 11 EC	5.0
	24	Dimethoate 30 % EC***	MRL yet to be notified
	25	Emamectin Benzoate 5 SG	0.06**
	26	Emamectin Benzoate 3% +Thiamethoxam 12% WG	Emamectin Benzoate= 0.06 Thiamethoxam = 20.0
	27	Fenpropathrin 30 EC	2.0
	28	Flubendiamide 20 WG	50.0
	29	Flubendiamide 19.92% w/w + Thiacloprid 19.92% w/w SC	Flubendiamide = 50.0 Thiacloprid = 5.0
	30	Flupyradifurone 17.09% w/w SL	MRL yet to be notified
	31	Quinalphos 25 EC	0.7**
	32	Spirotetramat 15.31% w/w OD	MRL yet to be notified
	33	Thiacloprid 21.7 SC	5.0
	34	Thiamethoxam 25 WG	20.0
	35	Thiamethoxam 12.6% + L-Cyhalothrin 9.5%	Thiamethoxam= 20.0 L-Cyhalothrin= 0.05*

Fungicides	36	Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63% WP	Carbendazim= 0.5 Mancozeb= 3.0
	37	Copper Oxychloride	150.0 (as elemental copper)
	38	Hexaconazole 4% + Zineb 68% WP	Zineb= 0.1*
	39	Hexaconazole 5 EC	5.0**
	40	Propiconazole 25 EC	6.0**
	41	Tetraconazole 3.8% w/w (4% w/v)	MRL yet to be notified
	42	Trifloxystrobin 25% + Tebuconazole 50% WG	MRL yet to be notified
Herbicides	43	Glyphosate 41 SL	1.0
	44	Glyphosate 71 SG	
	45	Glyphosate Ammonium Salt 5 SL	
	46	Glufosinate Ammonium 13.5 SL	0.01
	47	Oxyfluorfen 23.5 EC	0.2
	48	Paraquat Dichloride 24 WSC	0.2
	49	Paraquat Dichloride 24% + Oxyfluorfen 5% SC	Paraquat Dichloride=0.2 Oxyfluorfen=0.2
	50	Oxyfluorfen 2.5% + Isopropyl amine salt of Glyphosate 41% w/w SC	Oxyfluorfen=0.2 Glyphosate=1.0
	51	Carfentrazone Ethyl 0.43% + Glyphosate 30.82% EW	Carfentrazone Ethyl= 0.02* Glyphosate= 1.0
	52	Indaziflam 1.65% w/w + Glyphosate-isopropyl ammonium 44.63% w/w SC	MRL of Indaziflam is yet to be notified
	53	Saflufenacil 70 % WG	MRL yet to be notified
	54	Triasulfuron 20% WG	MRL yet to be notified
	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

The above list is dynamic and may change from time to time based on the CIB approved list of pesticides for use in tea and this may be seen from the website of Tea Board.

* Maximum Residue Limit fixed at Limit of Quantification (LOQ). Tolerance limit of 0.01 mg/kg shall apply in cases of pesticides for which MRL have not been fixed

** Revised and operational vide FSSAI order No. F. No.SS-T007/1/2023-Standard-FSSAI dated 27th April, 2023

*** Ad-hoc approval given by CIB-RC under national exigency for one year.

Copper Hydroxide, Profenophos and Bitertanol have been removed from this list following gazette notification of Ministry of Agriculture S.O. 2486 (E) dated 24th September, 2014 although MRL of Bitertanol in tea is fixed by FSSAI.

Note: This list does not contain extremely and highly hazardous chemicals classified under World Health Organization (WHO) 1a & 1b and are fully aligned with the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

Sl.No.	Name of Banned Insecticide
1	Aldicarb (sum of Aldicarb its sulphoxide and sulphone)
2	Aldrin, Dieldrin
3	Chlordane (Total of α - and β -chlordane)
4	Heptachlor (heptachlor metabolite, heptachlor epoxide)
5	Endosulfan (Gamma (γ) HCH), Alpha HCH, Beta HCH & delta-HCH)
6	Endosulfan (Total of alpha endosulfan & beta endosulfan and endosulfan sulphate)
7	Carbofuran
8	Methomyl
9	Phosphamidon
10	Captafol
11	Terbam
12	Formothion
13	Simazine
14	Diazinon
15	D.D.T (Total of p,p'-DDT, o,p'-DDT, p,p'-DDE, o,p'-DDE, p,p'-DDD and o,p'-DDE)
16	Fenthion
17	Fenthion (sum of fenthion, its oxygen analogue and their sulphoxides and Sulphones)

18	Methyl Parathion (Methyl Parathion and its oxygen analogue i.e. methyl paraoxon)
19	Ethyl Parathion (Ethyl Parathion and its oxygen analogue i.e. ethyl paraoxon)
20	Monocrotophos

Note : The Extraneous MRL of the above mentioned banned insecticides shall be 0.01 mg/kg except for DDT for which it shall be 0.05 mg/kg."

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
(Quality Assurance Division)
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi – 110002

Dated 04 March, 2024

Subject: Direction to all notified laboratories regarding testing of pesticide in Tea samples

1. Following the directives outlined in direction vide File No. QA/3/2021/FSSAI - Part(3) dated 29.11.2023, regarding testing of banned pesticides in Tea, FSSAI hereby directs all the laboratories notified under section 43 (1) and 43 (2) of The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to test the following pesticides namely:
 - a. *Cypermethrin*
 - b. *Acephate*
 - c. *Imidacloprid*
 - d. *Acetamiprid*
 - e. *Dinotefuran*
 - f. *Fipronil*
2. Testing for these parameters are to be conducted in addition to the 20 banned pesticides and pesticides specified for Tea as per FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) regulations, 2011.
3. Tolerance Limit of 0.01 mg/kg shall be applicable for the above mentioned 06 pesticides/insecticides (Point 1, a-f).

Dr. SATYEN
KUMAR
PANDA



Digitally signed by Dr.
SATYEN KUMAR PANDA
Date: 2024.03.02
12:44:43 +05'30'

(Dr. Satyen Kumar Panda)
Advisor (Quality Assurance)

To,

All FSSAI Notified Laboratories under section 43(1) and 43(2) of FSS Act, 2006.

Copy to:

1. Office of CEO, FSSAI
2. Additional Secretary, Plantation, Department of Commerce
3. Deputy Chairman, Tea Board India
4. CITO- to upload on FSSAI website