

File No. 12(11)2019/Tea/RCD/FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(A Statutory Authority established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006)
Regulatory Compliance Division
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi - 110002

Dated, the 29th June, 2020

Subject: Surveillance on use of stapled tea bags: reg

Sir/Madam,

Taking cognizance of risk to public safety in the wake of any loose staple pin being consumed inadvertently with tea causing serious health hazard, FSSAI issued direction dated 18.07.2017 to discontinue the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of stapled tea bags **effective 1st January, 2018**. However, based on representations received from Industries and Food Business Operators seeking extension for compliance of the said direction, implementation of said direction was further **extended upto 30th June, 2019** vide order dated 15th November, 2017.

2. Further, FSSAI vide order dated 25th January, 2019 had communicated that any request for extension of use of stapled tea bags beyond 30th June, 2019 would be considered **on case to case basis** subject to certain conditions. Accordingly, based on the roadmap received for complete switchover to staple less tea bags, FSSAI allowed time line to 16 FBOs to manufacture tea bags with staple pins upto 31.12.2021 and such tea bags can be sold in the domestic market upto 31.12.2023 only. The list of such FBOs is at Annexure-1. However, it has been noticed that a number of FBOs manufacturing stapled tea bags have either not yet sought extension of time for compliance or not responded to further queries raised by FSSAI with regard to their proposal for migration from stapled tea bags to staple-less tea bags.

3. In view of the above, Commissioner of Food Safety of States/UTs and Central Licensing Authorities are requested to carry out surveillance on manufacture and import of stapled tea bags in their respective area of jurisdiction. The action taken report in this regard may please be communicated to this office.

4. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.

Yours sincerely,


(R K Mittal)

Head, Regulatory Compliance

Encls : a/a

To,

- (i) Commissioner of Food Safety of all States/UTs
- (ii) All Central Licensing Authority
- (iii) The Deputy Chairman, Tea Board India, 14, B.T.M Sarani, Kolkata
- (iv) Indian Tea Association, Kolkata
- (v) CITO, FSSAI : For uploading this order on FSSAI website.

Status of representations received on compliance of staple less tea bags

Sl No.	Names of tea Co.s	Address
1	M/s Madhu Jayanti Intl. Pvt. Ltd.	Jay Complex, 46, B.B.Ganguly Street, Kolkata, West Bengal, 700012
2	M/s Mohani Tea Leaves Pvt. Ltd.	5th Floor, Tower C, B-8, IT Park, Sector-62, Noida, UP-201309
3	M/s Gujarat Tea Processors & Packers Ltd.	Wagh Bakri House, Opp.Parimal Garden, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-380006
4	M/s A.V Thomas & Co. Ltd.	W-21/674, Beach Road, Alleppey, Kerala-688012
5	M/s Vedika Exports (Tea)Pvt. Ltd.	209, A.J.C Bose Road, Karnani Estate Suite 71, 2nd Floor, Kolkata, West Bengal-700017
6	M/s A.J Tea House Pvt. Ltd.	182, A.J.C Bose Road, Kolkata, West Bengal-700014
7	M/s Apeejay Tea Ltd.	Apeejay House, 15, Park Street, Kolkata, West Bengal-700016
8	M/s Matheson Bosanquet Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	Door No. 18F, Jeeva Street, Urumandampalayam, Vellakkinar, G.N Mills Post, Coimbatore-641029
9	M/s Hindustan Unilever Ltd.	Unilever House, B.D Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai-400099
10	M/s Tata Global Beverages Ltd.	1, Bishop Lefroy Road, Kolkata-700020
11	M/s Jivraj Tea Ltd.	501, 5th Floor, Unin Heights, Maharana Pratap Road, Vesu, Surat, Gujarat-395007
12	M/s Codeprint Pvt. Ltd.	No. 3, 2nd Cross Bilekahalli Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560076
13	M/s JFK Internatonal Ltd.	Z-13, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
14	M/s Girnar Food & Beverages Pvt. Ltd.	401, Centre Point Building, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Road, Parel, Mumbai-400012
15	M/s Veerprabhu Overseas Ltd.	Block C, 2nd Floor, 30, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata, West Bengal-700016
16	M/s Fresh & Honest cafe Ltd. (not manufacturer, procures tea bag from suppliers)	3rd Floor, Hallmark Towers, No. 35(SP), Thiruvika Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032