

# COLOMBO TEA TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

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CIRCULAR No. 40 of 2024

October 15, 2024

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For the attention of the CEO

## **Handling of MRL-Detected Teas in Post-Auction Situations**

In accordance with By-law 2, which stipulates that all teas offered at the Colombo Tea Auctions must comply with ISO Standard 3720 or any other standard deemed applicable by the Sri Lanka Tea Board (SLTB), this circular outline the mechanism for managing teas detected with Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) violations in post-auction situations.

It is imperative to note that, as per the Tea Research Institute (TRI), established MRL limits fall within the scope of "any other standard" under SLTB oversight. Therefore, all teas offered should be free from encumbrances and available for export unless otherwise stated, upon full settlement of the buyer's account.

### **Mechanism for Handling MRL-Detected Teas**

The following procedure has been approved by the Committee to manage MRL-detected teas in a transparent and efficient manner:

#### **A. Buyer Claims:**

- Buyers may claim either similar teas or the value of teas detected with MRL violations, provided they submit a laboratory report from an accredited testing body confirming the detection.

#### **B. Exporter Claims:**

- Exporters are permitted to claim only for unblended straight-line teas in the event of MRL detections.

#### **C. Blended Bulk Teas:**

- In cases where MRL detections occur in blended bulk teas, the garden mark for each tea in the blend must be forwarded to the Deputy Tea Commissioner (Exports) of the Sri Lanka Tea Board for verification and appropriate follow-up actions.

We believe this mechanism will ensure compliance with applicable standards while providing fair recourse to all stakeholders involved. We kindly request all buyers to adhere strictly to these guidelines in managing any post-auction MRL issues.

**Office of the CTTA**  
**Colombo Tea Traders Association.**