

Dated 07.17

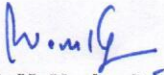
**Sub- Ban on use of Staple pins in tea bags - reg.**

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is mandated to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003 defines "Tea Bag" as packet containing tea in bags made of filter-paper, nylon net and/or any other acceptable material conforming to international norms and standards, for brewing of tea liquor by direct immersion of such bag in hot or cold water, and commercially known as tea bag. At present, there are two types of tea bags available in the market viz. stapled tea bags and knotted tea bags. Use of staple pins in tea bags poses potential hazard to consumers since any loose staple pin consumed inadvertently with tea may cause serious health hazard.

2. Taking cognizance of risk to public safety in using staple pin in tea bags by some FBOs, the Food Authority in exercise of the power conferred under Section 16 (5) of FSS Act, 2006, hereby directs the concerned FBOs to discontinue the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of stapled tea bags by 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

3. Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs are directed to take necessary action to prevent usage of unsafe packaging material by FBOs and take up measures for enforcement of this direction from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

  
(S. K. Yadav)

Director (RCD/Sur/Imports)

To:

1. All Commissioner of Food Safety of all States/UTs
2. All Central Designated Officers
3. Indian Tea Association, Kolkata
4. Tea Board India, Kolkata
5. All Major FBOs in Tea Industry viz. Tata Global Beverages, HUL, Asian Tea & Exports Ltd., Goodricke Group Limited, James Warren Tea Ltd., etc.
6. CITO- for uploading on FSSAI website

Copy to:

1. PPS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. PS to CEO, FSSAI
3. Guard file