

Government of West Bengal
Labour Department
New Secretariat Building, 12th floor
1, K. S. Roy Road, , Kolkata – 700 001

No. Labr/134/T&J

Date : 04.04.2025

NOTIFICATION

In continuation of the Notification No. LABR/29/Tea&Jute dated 11.02.2025 issued by the Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, the Governor is hereby pleased to constitute the State and District Level Task Force for the implementation of Notification No. LABR/29/Tea & Jute dt. 11.02.2025 prohibiting the sale, distribution, and use of insecticides/pesticides banned in cultivation, processing and trading of tea or tea products.

State Level Task Force:

1. Secretary, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal – **Chairman**
2. Labour Commissioner, Government of West Bengal – **Secretary-Cum-Convenor**
3. Commissioner of State Food Safety, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal – **Member**
4. IGP, North Bengal – **Member**
5. One officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal – **Member**

District Level Task Force:

(Only for Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Coochbehar, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and North Dinajpur Districts)

1. District Magistrate – **Chairman**
2. Superintendent of Police – **Member**
3. Additional Labour Commissioner / Deputy Labour Commissioner – **Secretary-Cum-Convenor**
4. Chief Medical Officer of Health – **Member**
5. Deputy Director of Agriculture (Admin), Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal – **Member**
6. Food Analyst of the Regional Food Safety Laboratory, Government of West Bengal – **Member**

2. State Level Task Force shall meet at least once every quarter to review the implementation of notifications banning the sale, storage and use of pesticides/insecticides and shall make recommendation to the District Level Task Force (DLDF) to ensure that necessary steps are taken in this regard.
3. District Level Task Force shall meet on a monthly basis and as and when required.
4. The District Level Task Force shall ensure that samples of tea leaves or processed tea are collected by the Food Safety Officer of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal for testing to ascertain the presence / residue of pesticides/insecticides in randomly taken tea leaves or processed tea samples or samples taken on the basis of specific information received.
5. It will be the responsibility of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), North Bengal to ensure necessary cooperation and police assistance in different districts and through the Siliguri Police Commissionerate set up for the implementation of the notification. The Superintendent of Police of the concerned district / Commissioner of Siliguri Police Commissionerate will also prevent the movement of vehicles carrying tea leaves or processed tea without a tea sample testing report across international border or inter-state borders and will ensure that every consignment of tea entering India from Nepal is accompanied by a No Objection Certificate (NOC) in FORM-3 [See Regulation 14 (1) of the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017] together with the sample analysis report confirming that teas comply with the specification under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 (Act no. 34 of 2006), and the rules and regulations thereunder.
6. In the event that any consignment of such tea(s) is found without the aforesaid required documents, such teas shall be confiscated by the State Authorities, and samples shall be sent for analysis to ascertain whether such teas conform to the specifications provided under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (Act no. 34 of 2006), and the rules and regulations thereunder.

7. The expenditure towards the analysis or testing of such samples shall be borne by the owner or the importer of such tea(s).

8. The Food Safety Commissioner, Health & Family Welfare Department shall ensure the smooth operation of the food testing laboratory in Siliguri and availability of services for testing tea samples in addition to the tea testing laboratories are being set up under the Labour Department. The Food safety Commissioner will also review the performance of Food safety Officers with respect to the implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) along with the Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulation, 2017 and FSSI notifications in this regard.

9. The Food Safety Officer shall also be empowered to draw samples of tea from any person who, whether by himself or through another person on his behalf, manufactures for sale or stores or sells or distributes or imports tea for human consumption, to ascertain whether the tea is safe or unsafe.

10. If any tea is found not to conform to the specifications provided under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (Act no. 34 of 2006), and the rules and regulations thereunder, such teas shall be destroyed and the person dealing in such teas shall be prosecuted under Section-59 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 along with other provisions of law.

11. The District Magistrate shall, in addition to other responsibilities related to preventing the use of banned insecticides/pesticides, coordinate among different stakeholders of tea industry to raise awareness regarding the ban of insecticides/pesticides and their harmful effects on human health.

12. Any officer not below the rank of a Minimum Wages Inspector of the Labour Department will assist the Food Safety Officer in drawing tea samples, if required so.

By the Order of the Governor
Dr. Manoj Pant
Chief Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal