

SRI LANKA STANDARD 401:2012
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SPECIFICATION FOR
TEA EXTRACTS
(First Revision)

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

**Sri Lanka Standard
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SLS 401 : 2012

Gr.4

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**SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION
17, Victoria Place
Elvitigala Mawatha
Colombo – 08
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Sri Lanka Standard
SPECIFICATION FOR TEA EXTRACTS
(First Revision)

FOREWORD

This standard was approved by the Sectoral Committee on Agricultural and Food Products and was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 2012-11-28.

Tea extracts are derived from varieties of tea of the species *Camellia sinensis* (L) O. Kuntze, intended to be used for the preparation of a beverage and available in a variety of forms. Most are produced in solid powdered form but current production also includes liquid form as liquid tea concentrates. Some incorporate in their formulation flavouring substances which are not normally present in tea, such as lemon, mint, jasmine, etc., and significant quantities of non-tea carbohydrates. The various products exhibit different characteristics so that, for the purpose of specifying requirements, it is necessary to deal separately with each type of product and specifications for those types will be prepared when the need arises.

This standard was first published in 1976 and is being revised to cover liquid tea concentrates considering the present manufacturing and trade practices. Accordingly the title of the standard has been modified and also methods of test have been updated.

This standard is subject to the restrictions imposed under the Sri Lanka Food Act No. 26 of 1980, Sri Lanka Tea Board Law No. 14 of 1975 and the regulations framed thereunder, wherever applicable.

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the results of a test or an analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with **SLS 102**. The number of significant places to be retained in the rounded off value shall be the same as that of the specified value in this specification.

In revising this standard, the assistance derived from publications of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is gratefully acknowledged.

1 SCOPE

1.1 This standard prescribes the requirements, methods of testing and sampling for tea extracts.

1.2 This standard does not apply to preparations of tea extracts containing added aromatic material unless these are derived exclusively from the plant *Camellia sinensis*.

2 REFERENCES

- SLS 102 Rules for rounding off numerical values
SLS 143 Code of practice for general principles of food hygiene
SLS 428 Random sampling methods
SLS 467 Code of practice for labelling of pre-packaged foods
SLS 1315 Code of practice for tea industry
SLS 1447 Methods of test for Instant Tea
Part 1 Determination of free- flow and compacted bulk densities
Part 2 Determination of moisture content (loss in mass at 103 °C)
Part 3 Determination of total ash
SLS 1448 Methods of sampling of Instant tea in solid form

3 PRODUCT DEFINITION

For the purpose of this standard, the following definition shall apply :

3.1 tea extract: Water dispersible solids and the concentrates obtained by aqueous extraction by an acceptable process of the leaves, buds and stems, and of materials derived therefrom, of those varieties of the species *Camellia sinensis* (L) O. Kuntze, exclusively which are known to be suitable for making tea for consumption as a beverage.

4 TYPES

Tea Extracts shall be of the following types.

- 4.1 Solid forms
4.2 Liquid concentrates

5 REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Hygiene

Tea extracts shall be processed, packaged, stored and distributed under hygienic conditions as prescribed in **SLS 143** and **SLS 1315**.

5.2 General requirements

5.2.1 The product shall produce a liquor of characteristic flavour and aroma of the infusion of tea derived from the varieties of the species *Camellia sinensis* (L) O. Kuntze, exclusively known to be suitable for making tea for consumption as a beverage. The

colour and clarity requirements of the liquor prepared from the tea extracts shall be as agreed between the buyer and the seller.

5.2.2 In case of solid forms, the product shall conform to the requirements for free flow and compacted bulk densities, and for flowability, as agreed between the buyer and the seller. The determination shall be carried out by the method described in **SLS 1447:Part 1**.

5.3 Chemical requirements

The product shall conform to the requirements given in Table 1, when tested according to the methods given in Column 5 of the Table.

TABLE 1 – Chemical requirements for tea extracts

SI No.	Characteristic	Requirement		Method of Test
		Hot water soluble	Cold water soluble	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i)	Moisture content*, per cent by mass, (max.)	6	6	SLS 1447 : Part 2
ii)	Total ash (on dry basis), per cent by mass (max.)	20	25	SLS 1447 : Part 3

** Determination of the moisture content shall be carried out only for products in solid form.*

6 PACKAGING

6.1 The product shall be packaged in closed, clean and dry containers/packages made of food grade material, which does not affect the product, or in accordance with the customary trade practices so as to allow the product to retain its freshness.

6.2 The packaging material which comes into contact directly with the product shall be sufficiently inert to preclude substances from being transferred to food in quantities large enough to endanger human health or to bring about an unacceptable change in the composition of the product or deterioration in its organoleptic properties.

7 MARKING AND / OR LABELLING

7.1 Each package/container shall be marked or labelled legibly and indelibly or a label shall be attached to the package with the following information, except for packages/containers intended for export where marking shall be in accordance with **7.2**.

- a) Name of the product as “Tea extract” or “Instant tea” or “Tea concentrate” ;
- b) The words “ cold water soluble” or “hot water solouble”, where applicable;
- c) Brand name or trade mark, if any ;
- d) Net mass or volume of the product, when packed;
- e) The batch or code number or a decipherable code marking ;
- f) Name and address of the manufacturer;
- g) Name and address of the packer or distributor in Sri Lanka ;
- h) Date of manufacture ;
- j) Date of expiry ;
- k) Instructions for use, if any;
- l) Country of origin, in case of imported products; and
- m) Any other requirements given under the Sri Lanka Tea Board Act.

7.2 The following information shall be marked/labelled on packages/ containers intended for export :

- a) Name of the product ;
- b) Name and address of the manufacturer ;
- c) Net mass/volume of contents ;
- d) Gross mass/volume of contents ;
- e) Month and Year of manufacture ;
- f) Batch, Code number or any other identification number ;
- g) Country of origin;
- h) Any other requirements given under the Sri Lanka Tea Board Act ; and
- J) Any other information requested by the buyer/importing country.

7.3 The marking and labelling shall also be in accordance with **SLS 467**.

8 SAMPLING

8.1 Representative samples of the product for ascertaining conformity to the requirements of this standard shall be drawn as prescribed in Appendix A.

8.2 Number of tests

8.2.1 Each package/container selected as in Appendix A shall be examined for packaging and marking requirements.

8.2.2 The contents of each package/container selected as in Appendix A shall be examined for requirements given in 5.2.

8.2.3 After testing for requirements as stated in 8.2.2 equal quantities of material shall be taken from each container and mixed together to form a composite sample. The composite sample thus obtained shall be tested for the requirements given in 5.3.

9 METHODS OF TEST

Tests shall be carried out as prescribed in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of SLS 1447.

9.1 Reagents

All reagents used shall be of recognized analytical quality and wherever water is mentioned, distilled or deionized water shall be used.

10 CRITERIA FOR CONFORMITY

A lot shall be considered as conforming to the requirements of this standard, if the following conditions are satisfied:

10.1 Each package/container examined as in 8.2.1 satisfies the packaging and marking requirements.

10.2 Each package/container examined as in 8.2.2 satisfies the requirements given in 5.2.

10.3 The composite sample tested as in 8.2.3 satisfies the requirements given in 5.3.

APPENDIX A SAMPLING

A-1 LOT

In a single consignment, all the packages /containers containing the same type and size and belonging to one batch of manufacture or supply shall constitute a lot.

A-2 SAMPLING OF TEA EXTRACT IN SOLID FORM

A-2.1 Sampling shall be carried out in accordance with **SLS 1448**.

A-3 SAMPLING OF LIQUID CONCENTRATES

A-3.1 Scale of sampling

A-3.2 Samples shall be tested from each lot for ascertaining its conformity to the requirements of this specification.

A-3.3 The number of containers to be selected from a lot shall be in accordance with Table 2.

Table 2 - Scale of sampling

Number of containers in the lot (1)	Number of containers to be selected (2)
Up to 500	05
501 to 1300	07
1301 to 3200	10
3201 to 10000	15
10001 and above	20

A-3.3 The containers shall be selected at random. In order to ensure randomness of selection, random number tables as given in **SLS 428** shall be used.

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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The principal objects of the Institution as set out in the Act are to prepare standards and promote their adoption, to provide facilities for examination and testing of products, to operate a Certification Marks Scheme, to certify the quality of products meant for local consumption or exports and to promote standardization and quality control by educational, consultancy and research activity.

The Institution is financed by Government grants, and by the income from the sale of its publications and other services offered for Industry and Business Sector. Financial and Administrative control is vested in a Council appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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All members of the Technical and Sectoral Committees render their services in an honorary capacity. In this process the Institution endeavours to ensure adequate representation of all view points.

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The Sri Lanka Standards Institution is the owner of the registered certification mark shown below. Beneath the mark, the number of the Sri Lanka Standard relevant to the product is indicated. This mark may be used only by those who have obtained permits under the SLS certification marks scheme. The presence of this mark on or in relation to a product conveys the assurance that they have been produced to comply with the requirements of the relevant Sri Lanka Standard under a well designed system of quality control inspection and testing operated by the manufacturer and supervised by the SLSI which includes surveillance inspection of the factory, testing of both factory and market samples.

Further particulars of the terms and conditions of the permit may be obtained from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.

