F.No. P.15025/6/2004-PFS/FSSAI
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
FDA bhawan, Kotla Road,
New Delhi.

Statutory Advisory

Dated: 23rd November, 2012

Subject: Iron fillings in tea.

With reference to the representation made by the Tea Board vide D.O.No. RL-20(360)/2010/3954 dated 5th November, 2012; I am directed to say that the question of presence of the iron filings in the tea has been engaging the attention of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for quite some time. It is evident that zero presence of iron filings is not possible in tea. Safety conscious countries have permissible level between 120 mg/kg to 500 mg/kg. The matter has been examined and after due consideration the Food Authority has came to the conclusion that pending completion of the detailed study on the presence of iron fillings in tea, which the National institution of Nutrition is doing and the assessment by the Food Authority's relevant panel, the maximum limit of iron particles in tea may be adhered to 150 mg/Kg. It is also requested that specific prosecution may not be launched within the prescribed limit mentioned above for next one year from the date of issue of the order or till further order whichever is earlier.

2. Suitable instruction may kindly be issued to the enforcement staff in this regard.

This order issues with the approval of the Competent Authority by virtue of power conferred on FSSAI under 16(5) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

23.11.2012
(Dr. Dhir Singh)
Director (QA)

To,
All Food Safety commissioners of States/ UTs