



NAFDAC TEA AND RELATED PRODUCTS REGULATIONS 2025

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NAFDAC Tea and Related Products Regulations 2025

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National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control ACT

NAFDAC Tea And Related Products Regulations 2025

Commencement: -

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governing Council of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control ('the Governing Council') by Section 30 of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act, Cap. N1, LFN, 2004 and Section 12 of the Food, Drugs and Related Products (Registration, Etc.) Act. Cap. F33. LFN, 2004 and of all the powers enabling it in that behalf, the Governing Council with the approval of the Minister makes the following Regulations: -

1. Application

These regulations shall apply to the requirements for tea and related products with the exception of herbal and fruit infusions.

2. Quality Criteria

- (1) Tea and related products shall have the characteristic colour, aroma, flavour and taste as expected of the category of the product.
- (2) Tea and related products shall be free from any vegetative forms of mould, extraneous materials, unpleasant odours and adulterants.

3. Categories of tea and related products

- (1) Tea shall be obtained by acceptable method of processes as provided in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.
- (2) Instant tea, decaffeinated tea and decaffeinated instant tea, flavoured tea, liquid tea extract and tea dust or fanning shall meet the specified requirements provided in regulation 3(1) and 4 to these Regulations.
 - a. Instant tea; soluble tea extract
 - (i) shall be dried tea in the form of free-flowing powder and soluble in water produced by acceptable processes from wholesome leaves and tender shoots of any of the varieties of the species *Camellia sinensis* (L.) Kuntze, known to be suitable for making tea for consumption as a beverage
 - (ii) shall be dried tea in granule form and soluble in water
 - b. Decaffeinated tea and decaffeinated instant tea.
 - (i) Decaffeinated tea shall –
 - (a) be obtained from the category of tea as specified in Schedule 1 from which caffeine has been removed by any suitable means.
 - (b) not contain more than 0.4 percent of anhydrous caffeine.
 - (ii) Decaffeinated instant tea shall –
 - (a) consist of the dried soluble solids obtained by spray drying or freeze drying the water extract from decaffeinated tea to deliver a product similar to instant tea; soluble tea extract.
 - (b) not contain more than 1.2 percent of anhydrous caffeine.
 - c. Flavoured tea shall
 - (i) be tea to which fragrance or flavouring substances are added in order to lend a specific flavour
 - (ii) consists of:

- (a) tea as a basis,
 - (b) flavourings including liquid flavour, dry flavour which are not used for the purpose of imitating or intensifying the fragrance and taste of tea,
 - (c) food ingredients with flavouring properties including parts of plants.
- d. Tea essence; liquid tea extract or concentrate
 - (i) shall consist of the concentrated essence or liquid extract obtained from the categories of tea referred to in Schedule 1 with or without glycerol or sugar.
 - (ii) contain at least 4.0 percent of caffeine; and
 - (iii) contain at least 7.0 percent of tannin;
- e. Tea dust or tea fanning shall
 - (i) be the dust, fanning or sifting of tea;
 - (ii) not yield more than 5 per cent of ash insoluble in boiling water.

4. **Compositional requirement**

The specific requirements shall be as provided in Schedule 2 to these Regulations

5. **Heavy metals**

Heavy metal contaminants, if present, shall comply with the limits specified in Schedule 3 to these Regulations

6. **Labelling**

- (1) The labelling of tea and related products shall be in accordance with the Agency's Pre-packaged Food (Labelling) Regulations.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Agency's Pre-packaged Food (Labelling) Regulations, the following specific provisions shall apply:
 - (a) The product name for tea shall be as follows:
 - (i) Black tea shall be named as "Black tea" or "Tea"
 - (ii) Oolong tea shall be named as "Oolong tea"
 - (iii) Green tea shall be named as "Green tea"
 - (iv) White Tea shall be named as "White Tea"
 - (v) Yellow Tea shall be named as "Yellow Tea"
 - (vi) Matcha Tea shall be named as "Matcha Tea"
 - (vii) Pu- Erh Tea shall be named as "Pu-Erh Tea"
 - (viii) Instant tea, soluble tea extract shall be named as "Instant 'X' tea" or "Soluble 'X' tea" and where 'X' refers to the name of the specific category of tea used.
 - (ix) Decaffeinated tea and decaffeinated instant tea shall be named as Decaffeinated 'X' tea" or "Decaf 'X' tea" or "Decaffeinated instant X tea" or "Decaf instant X tea," as the case may be and where 'X' refers to the name of the specific category of tea used.
 - (x) Tea essence, liquid tea extract or concentrate named as 'X' tea essence" or "X' tea concentrate" or "Liquid 'X' tea extract" or "Liquid 'X' tea concentrates", where 'X' refers to the name of the specific category of tea used.
 - (b) The expression "blend" shall form part of the product name where: -
 - (i) two or more categories of tea are blended and packed in the same package.
 - (ii) one or more categories of tea are blended with a herbal or fruit infusion; or
 - (iii) a specific category of tea was sourced from different countries, locations, or geographical areas and blended.

- (c) where a mixture of two or more kinds of herbs or spices have been added, the expression “mixed herbs” or “mixed spices”, as the case may be, shall form part of the product name
- (d) When a flavouring has been added to tea or a related product in order to render a distinctive specific flavour thereto, the product name concerned shall be preceded by the descriptive name for the distinctive flavour concerned and the expression “X flavoured”, or followed by the expression “with X flavour” or “with X flavouring”, where “X” indicates the name of the flavouring used.
- (e) The expression “ground” shall form part of the product name in the case where a category of tea is presented for sale in the ground form.
- (f) The expression “loose leaf” shall form part of the product name in the case where loose leaf tea is packed.
- (g) Notwithstanding the requirements in regulations 6(2) (c) and(d) of this Regulations the following applicable expressions only may be indicated as part of the product name: Provided that a complete ingredients list shall appear on the container product label:
 - (i) ‘Chai’ - if a blend of spices including cardamom, cinnamon, fennel, black pepper, cloves, ginger, has been added to the tea concerned; or
 - (ii) ‘Earl Grey’ - if the tea concerned has been flavoured with oil from the rind of bergamot orange.
- (h) Geographical indications shall: -
 - (i) be used if the tea originates exclusively from a particular district of origin. An indication of a particular country or a region which does not grow its own tea shall not be considered as an indication of origin.
 - (ii) only be given, if the proportion of tea from the mentioned district of origin accounts for more than half of the total amount, and if it is the determining character of the tea blend.
- (i) The intensity of the tea when brewed including mild, medium, strong.
- (j) The method used to obtain instant tea; soluble tea extract in the powder form, i.e. spray dried or freeze dried shall be indicated.

7. Packaging

Tea shall be packaged in closed, clean and dry food grade materials which shall not compromise the quality, safety and integrity of the product nor impart any undesirable taste or flavour to the contents thereof.

8. Prohibition

Tea and related products shall not be manufactured, imported, exported, advertised, sold distributed or used in Nigeria unless it has been registered in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

9. Enforcement of Regulations

The Agency shall be responsible for the enforcement of these Regulations.

10. Offences and Penalties

- (1) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations commits an offence and liable on conviction. In the case of: -
 - (a) an individual, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding N800,000:00 or both,

- (b) a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding N5,000, 000:00.
- (2) Where an offence under these Regulations is committed by a body corporate, firm or any other association of individuals, every: -
- (a) director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate.
 - (b) partner or officer of the firm.
 - (c) trustee of the body concerned.
 - (d) person concerned in the management of the affairs of the association; or
 - (e) person who was purporting to act in a capacity referred to in paragraphs (a) to (d) of this regulation, commits an offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished in the same manner as if he had himself committed the offence, unless he proves that the act or omission constituting the offence took place without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

11. Forfeiture after conviction

- (1) A person convicted of an offence under these Regulations shall forfeit to the Federal Government: -
- (a) any asset or property constituting proceeds derived from or obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of the offence; and
 - (b) any of the person's property or instruments used in any manner to commit or to facilitate the commission of the offence.
- (2) In this section, "proceeds" means any property derived or obtained, directly or indirectly, through the commission of the offence.

12. Interpretation

For the purpose of these regulations unless the context otherwise requires, the following words shall mean: -

Adulterant means any material intentionally added that changes the original composition and compromises the quality and safety of tea and related products.

Freeze dried means a process in which the product in the liquid state is frozen and the ice removed by sublimation, with the dried particles typically having a granular appearance.

Ground tea means the tender shoots and leaves of varieties of the species *Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kuntze which have been steamed, dried, and grounded into a fine powder.

Herbal and fruit infusions (HFI)

Infusions made from parts of plants (roots, flowers, leaves, barks, fruits, seeds or twigs) which do not originate from *Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kuntze and which are intended for the same use as tea.

Herbal and fruit infusions are also blends of herbal material with tea which do not fall under the category of "flavoured tea".

Herbs means fresh or dried non-toxic leafy green or flowering parts of a plant used for, among others, the flavouring of tea and related products.

Packaging means the immediate package in which tea, or a related product is presented for

sale to the consumer, including the filter bags, aluminum foil or any other suitable material containing such units that are packed inside a container.

Related product means the products intended for consumption as a beverage as stated in regulation 3 (2) to this Regulations.

Spice means dried, pungent or aromatic substances of edible plant origin (i.e. from the root, stem, bulb, bark or seeds) primarily used for flavouring, colouring or preserving food products;

Spray dried means a process in which the product in the liquid state is sprayed into a hot atmosphere and formed into dried particles in a powder form by evaporation of the water;

Tea means the product derived solely and exclusively from the tender shoots and leaves of varieties of the species *Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kuntze and produced by acceptable processes (e.g. withering, leaf maceration, aeration, drying, etc.) intended for making a brew suitable for consumption as a beverage.

13. Citation

These Regulations may be cited as Tea and Related Products Regulations 2025

Category of Tea Based on Method of Processing

Tea	Method of processing
Black tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes, in particular withering, rolling/ leaf maceration, fermentation/aeration and drying of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.
Oolong Tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes, in particular withering, rolling/ leaf maceration, semi-fermentation/ aeration and drying, of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.
Green tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes, in particular enzyme inactivation and commonly rolling or comminution, followed by drying of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.
White Tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes of Non-fermentation/ aeration and drying of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.
Yellow Tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes of Light-fermentation/ aeration and drying of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.
Matcha Tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes of Fine-milling of selected, non-fermented dried tea leaves of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.
Pu-Erh Tea	The product obtained by acceptable processes of Post-fermentation/ aeration and drying of the tender shoots of varieties of the species <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) O. Kuntze.

Schedule 2

Specific Requirements

S/N	Parameter	Requirements				
		Black Tea	Green Tea	Instant Tea		
				Hot Water-Soluble Instant Tea	Cold Water-Soluble Black Instant Tea	Green Instant Tea
1.	Moisture Content % (m/m) Max	7	6	6.0	6.0	6.0
2.	Total Ash % (m/m)	8	8	20.0	40.0	15.0
3.	Water-soluble ash percentage of total ash, min.	45	45	-	-	-
4.	Alkalinity of water-soluble ash expressed as KOH % (m/m)	1.0-3.0	1.2-1.6	-	-	-
5.	(Acid-insoluble ash % (m/m) max	1.0	1.0	-	-	-
6.	Water-extract % (m/m)	32	32	-	-	-
7.	Crude fiber % (m/m) max	16.5	16.5	-	-	-
8.	Total polyphenols (m/m) min.	2.0	11	20.0	5.0	30.0
9.	Caffeine, % (m/m) (min)	1.5	1.5	8.0	8.0	7.5
10.	pH (10% w/v solution in distilled water)	-	-	3.5-5.5	4.5-8.5	5.0-6.0
11.	Solubility Index ml (max)	-	-	2	2	2

Schedule 3

Maximum Limits of Metallic Contaminants and Mycotoxin

	Limits		
	Black Tea	Green Tea	Instant Tea
Arsenic (As) mg/kg (max)	1.0	1.0	0.2
Cadmium (Cd) mg/kg (max)	-	-	0.1
Mercury (Hg) mg/kg (max)	0.5	0.5	-
Lead (Pb) mg/kg (max)	0.5	0.5	0.02
Tin (Sn) mg/kg (max)	250	250	250
Mycotoxin (Total Aflatoxin ppb) (max)	4	4	4

Made at Abuja thisDay of..... 2025

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Chairman Governing Council
National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)