



PACKAGING OF TEA :

INTRODUCTION:

During the Tang dynasty, tea was steamed, then pounded and shaped into cake form. Tea was first introduced to Western priests and merchants in China during the 16th century, at which time it was termed chá. In India, tea industry originated after 1823 as result of discovery of tea plant in Assam. The discovery of indigenous tea in Assam in 1823 led to the origins of the tea industry in India.

Packaging is an important part of food manufacturing process. It protect the food products from physical chemical, biological damages. Without packaging, materials handling would be a messy, inefficient and Costly exercise and modern consumer marketing would be virtually Impossible.

Packaging Institute International defined packaging as the enclosure of products, items or packages in a wrapped pouch, bag, box, cup, tray, can, tube, bottle or other container form to perform one or more of the following functions: containment, protection, preservation, communication, utility and performance. If the device or container performed one or more r functions, it was considered a package.

NEED OF PACKAGING

CONTAINMENT: protecting the environment from the myriad of products that are moved from one place to another.

PROTECTION: to protect its contents from outside environmental influences such as water, water vapor, gases, odors, microorganisms, dust, shocks, vibrations and compressive forces.

CONVENIENCE: Products designed to increase convenience include foods that are prepared and can be cooked or reheated in a very short time, preferably without removing them from their primary package.

COMMUNICATION: Packaging contains a lot of information such name of its manufacturer, product name, terms and uses, date of manufacturing, best before. Nutritional information thus helping the consumer to be more informed.

TYPES OF PACKAGING

PRIMARY PACKAGING: Primary package are those package which directly came into contact with food products. It provides first or initial layer of protection to the food products. Examples of primary packaging includes Metal cans, tea bag, paperboard cartons, glass bottles and plastic pouches.

SECONDARY PACKAGE: Secondary package are those package which surrounds or contains the primary package. Ex. Corrugated case, Boxes

TERTIARY PACKAGE: It contains number of secondary package together. Mainly used for bulk handling of food products.

PACKAGING MATERIAL FOR TEA

1.LDPE:

- Low-density polyethylene is heat sealable, inert, odour free and shrinks when heated.
- It act as a barrier to moisture and has high gas permeability
- Is less expensive, therefore widely used.
- Has ability of fusion welded to itself to give good, tough, seals.

2. PET:

- PET can be made into film by blowing or casting.
- Melting point of PET is higher than PP which is around 260°C and due to the manufacturing conditions does not shrink below 180°C.
- PET is ideal for high-temperature applications.
- It also act as good barrier of oxygen and water vapor.

3.GLASS: Now a day glass container has been also used for packaging the tea. It has following advantages:

- Act as strong barrier to moisture, gases, odours and micro-organisms.
- Do not react with food products.
- Suitable for heat processing when hermetically sealed
- Glass are re-useable and recyclable
- They are transparent to display the contents
- They are rigid, to allow stacking without container damage.

4.LAMINATE:

- The laminates can be formed, filled, gas flushed and sealed on a single machine from reel stock.
- Gas flushing is achieved by saturating the powder with inert gas.
- The main advantages associated with laminates are lower material cost and lighter material weight.