



FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL

Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants (15.04.2017_v 1.5)

Interpretation Notes

Date	<i>October 15 2021</i>							
Reference	<i>Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants</i>							
Affected standard requirement	<p>1.2.1 Flower bouquet composition</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Applies to: Companies and Traders</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Core</td> <td rowspan="2">You ensure that all the flowers and plants to be sold as Fairtrade are Fairtrade certified. For bouquets, you ensure they contain as many Fairtrade fillers and flowers as available. Non-certified flowers and fillers which are not available as Fairtrade can be included as an exception in a Fairtrade bouquet not exceeding 50% of the total number of stems.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Guidance: It is recommended that non-Fairtrade flowers should be locally sourced</td> </tr> </table>	Applies to: Companies and Traders		Core	You ensure that all the flowers and plants to be sold as Fairtrade are Fairtrade certified. For bouquets, you ensure they contain as many Fairtrade fillers and flowers as available. Non-certified flowers and fillers which are not available as Fairtrade can be included as an exception in a Fairtrade bouquet not exceeding 50% of the total number of stems.	Year 0	Guidance: It is recommended that non-Fairtrade flowers should be locally sourced	
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Interpretation	<p>When can non-certified flowers and fillers be used in a Fairtrade bouquet?</p> <p>Operators need to ensure that bouquets contain as many Fairtrade flowers and fillers as available as stipulated in requirement 1.2.1 of the Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants.</p> <p>A list of fillers and flowers available as Fairtrade is published on the Fairtrade International website.</p> <p>The use of non-certified flowers and fillers in a bouquet is allowed for as long as they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. not available as Fairtrade, And; ii. do not exceed 50% of the total number of stems in the bouquet. <p>When can an operator request the Licensing Body or Assurance Provider for an exception?</p> <p>The Fairtrade International Exception Policy defines, when an operator can be temporarily exempted from compliance with a particular requirement in the standards. The operator may request for an exception to use non-Fairtrade flowers or fillers in place of a Fairtrade flowers or fillers for a specified period of time under the conditions that are specified in requirement 2.2.4 of the Fairtrade Trader Standard. This can be done due to the following reasons:</p> <p>Type I Exceptions (Granted by Licensing Bodies)</p>							

- **Supply shortage** : Sourcing of Fairtrade flowers and fillers is provisionally not possible for reasons beyond the operators control, e.g. drought, natural disaster, strikes, war or similar reasons.
- **Inadequate quality** : Fairtrade flowers and fillers are available, however the particular quality required by the buyer is not available and the qualities that are available would cause insurmountable technical problems.

Category B Exceptions (granted by Assurance Provider or Licensing Body)

- **Special circumstances:** This could be due to –
 - Force majeure situations (natural or manmade disasters).
 - Other unforeseen events outside of the control of the organization (such as changes in legislation, pest outbreaks, abrupt price changes).
 - Specific organizational, environmental, social or technical conditions of a particular case that make it exceptionally and justifiable different from other cases.
 - An opportunity to bring substantial benefits to producers and workers via Fairtrade sales is made impossible by the application of standard requirements.

An operator should always apply for an exception if a Fairtrade stem is unavailable, even if the overall percentage of Fairtrade stems in the bouquet remains at 50% or more. Even with an exception the total Fairtrade content of the ATCB bouquet should always reach the minimum threshold of 50%.

Please see two practical scenarios below.

Example scenario 1: An operator is selling a bouquet containing 100% Fairtrade stems. Of this, 30% are Fairtrade roses, 30% Fairtrade gypsophila and 40% Fairtrade sunflowers. If the operator is unable to source Fairtrade sunflowers and wishes to replace these with non-Fairtrade sunflowers, then the operator will need to apply for an exception, even if the overall composition will still contain more than 50% Fairtrade stems.

Example scenario 2: An operator is selling a bouquet containing 25% Fairtrade roses, 25% Fairtrade alstroemeria, 25% Fairtrade chrysanthemum, and 25% non-Fairtrade tulips. If the operator is unable to source Fairtrade chrysanthemum and wishes to replace these with non-Fairtrade chrysanthemum, then the operator will need to apply for an exception, even if the overall composition will still contain 50% Fairtrade stems.