
Fairtrade International Public Report on Exceptions granted

January – December 2021

Contact for comments and information: assurance@fairtrade.net



Fairtrade International Public Report on Exceptions granted

Introduction

In the interest of transparency about how the Fairtrade Standards are implemented, and in accordance with the Fairtrade International Exceptions Policy as part of our compliance with the ISEAL Assurance Code, Fairtrade International provides an annual summary of the Exceptions to the Fairtrade Standards granted by our certifiers (also known as Assurance Providers) and Licensing Bodies.

The Exceptions are listed according to the requirement in the Fairtrade Standards for which an exception was granted. These requirements cover practices from agricultural production by smallholder farmers and workers, up until Fairtrade product compositions or how commodities are packaged as finished products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark.

The Exceptions granted for ingredients in finished products carrying the FAIRTRADE Mark (according to Trader Standard 2.2 'Product Composition') are listed separately (see Table 2).

Table 1 – Exceptions granted in 2021 (except Product composition Exceptions, which are listed in Table 2)

| Exception Category | Number of Exceptions |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Product Compensation (Trader Standard 1.1.4) | 60 |
| Overtime Exception (Hired Labour Standard 3.5.10) | 49 |
| Retro-Certification (Exceptions Policy 1.1.2) | 37 |
| Physical Traceability Composite Products (Trader Standard 2.1.7) | 11 |
| Premium Distribution (Hired Labour Standard 2.1.20) | 3 |

Table 2 – Product composition Exceptions granted in 2020 (for the use of non-Fairtrade ingredients per Exception reason)

| Exception Reason | Product Category | Number of Exceptions |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Inadequate Quality | Herbs and Spices | 21 |
| | Fruits | 20 |
| | Nuts and Oilseeds | 15 |
| | Cocoa | 9 |
| | Sugar | 4 |
| | Flowers and Plants | 3 |
| | Coffee | <3 |
| Supply Shortage | Herbs and Spices | 8 |
| | Nuts and Oilseeds | 6 |
| | Fruits | 5 |
| | Sugar | <3 |
| | Teas | <3 |
| Provenance | Fruits | <3 |
| | Herbs and Spices | <3 |
| Unavailable Ingredient | Fruits | 140 |
| | Nuts and Oilseeds | 89 |
| | Herbs and Spices | 44 |
| | Sugar | 33 |
| | Cereals | 23 |
| | Soybeans and Pulses | 10 |

Table 2 (continued)

| Exception Reason | Product Category | Number of Exceptions |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Unavailable Ingredient (continued) | Fresh Vegetables | 7 |
| | Vegetables | 3 |
| | Flowers and Plants | 3 |
| | Cocoa | <3 |
| | Quinoa | <3 |
| Sourcing Constraints | Herbs and Spices | 19 |
| | Fruits | 12 |
| | Nuts and Oilseeds | 4 |
| | Sugar | 3 |
| | Cocoa | <3 |

Disclaimer

Please note: *This aggregated summary of Standards Exceptions granted is compiled from multiple internal data sources. Due to the challenges of compiling data from different sources and in different formats, it may contain a limited number of duplications, omissions and minor errors. The summary does not include Exception requests which were denied.*

If you have queries about this database, please contact us at assurance@fairtrade.net.