

Fairtrade Standard for Honey for Small Producer Organizations and Traders

Current version: 01.05.2011

Supersedes previous version: 01.02.2005

Expected date of next review: 2014

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**For further information and standards downloads:
www.fairtrade.net/standards.html**

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Introduction

How to use this Standard

Refer to the Generic Standard for Small Producer Organizations as a separate document as updated by Fairtrade International (FLO) on its website.

Please note that the Generic Fairtrade Trade Standard also applies. In cases where the product specific Standard below differs from the Generic Fairtrade Trade Standard, the requirements presented in this Standard apply.

Application

The Product Specific Fairtrade Standard for Small Producer Organizations have been revised according to the New Product Classification (based on the Central Product Classification). The new Standards apply from 1 July 2011.

Monitoring of Amendments

Fairtrade International reserves the right to amend Fairtrade Standards in accordance with Fairtrade International's Standard Operating Procedures (http://www.fairtrade.net/setting_the_standards.html). Requirements of Fairtrade Standards may be added, deleted, or otherwise modified. Those who have to meet Fairtrade Standards are required to monitor pending and finalized revisions on Fairtrade International's website.

Fairtrade Certification ensures the compliance with Fairtrade Standards. Revision of Fairtrade Standards may lead to a change in the requirements of Fairtrade Certification. Those who wish to be certified or have already undergone certification are required to monitor pending and finalized certification policies and compliance criteria on the certification body's website <http://www.flo-cert.net>.

1. General Requirements

Intent and scope

All operators taking ownership of Fairtrade certified products and/or handling the Fairtrade Price and Premium are audited and certified.

This chapter applies to the certificate holder.

This standard covers the purchase and sale of honey. For the sections under certification and traceability (only), the standard also covers any processed products and derivatives.

The standard also covers its secondary products and their derivatives. The definition of secondary products is included in Annex 1 of the Generic Trade Standards.

A non-exhaustive list of products fitting the secondary products definition is published on the Fairtrade International website.

1.1 Certification

There are no additional requirements.

1.2 Labelling and Packaging

There are no additional requirements.

1.3 Product Description

Honey is the sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of or on living parts of plants, which they collect, transform, combine with specific substances, and store in honeycombs.

1.4 Other product requirements

1.4.1 Quality: The honey must fulfil EU and Swiss quality standards.

It must not have any objectionable flavour, aroma or taint absorbed from foreign matter during the processing and storage. It must not have begun to ferment or be effervescent. Honey must be free of any residues caused by medical application against bee illness (e.g. varroasis, foulbrood, etc.). Honey must not contain any foreign sugar.

The honey should be free of foreign matters such as mould, insects, insect debris, sand, etc.

Eventual feeding of sugar must be limited strictly to the non-productive season and in addition must be kept at the absolute minimum necessary.

Quality control prior to shipment must be carried out through an independent agent unless otherwise agreed between seller and Fairtrade Payer.

Only new export quality barrels should be used for bulk shipment.

Definition of the quality standards for honey:

Honey traded under Fairtrade conditions will be classified into two categories, according to its quality. Two criteria standards are defined as being relevant for determining the quality, namely water content and Hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) content. For each category, points are given according to the following scheme:

Table 1: Assessing the water content in honey

Water content (% Chataway)	Points	Factor	Max. points
16.9 % or less	5	4	20

17.0 – 17.5	4	4	16
17.6 – 18.5 %	3	4	12
18.6 – 19.0 %	2	4	8
19.1 – 19.5 %	0.5	4	2
19.6 % or more	0	4	0

Table 2: Assessing the HMF content in honey

HMF content (ppm)	Points	Factor	Max. points
5.0 or less	5	3	15
5.1 – 9.9	4	3	12
10.0 – 12.0	3	3	9
12.1 – 15.0	2	3	6
15.1 – 20.0	1	3	3
20 and over	0	3	0

The quality of the honey is determined by adding together the points given for the two quality criteria above. On this basis, two quality categories are defined:

A quality: Any honey that achieves 18 points or more.

B quality: Any honey that achieves 17 points or less.

The quality control prior to shipment must be carried out by an independent agent unless otherwise agreed between seller and Fairtrade Payer.

2. Trade

Intent and scope

This chapter outlines the requirements that you need to comply with when you sell Fairtrade products.

This chapter applies to the Fairtrade product.

2.1 Traceability

There are no additional requirements.

2.2 Product Composition

There are no additional requirements.

2.3 Contracts

There are no additional requirements.

3. Production

Intent and scope

This chapter outlines the ethical and sustainable production practices that are behind every Fairtrade product.

This chapter applies to the Fairtrade product.

There are no additional requirements.

4. Business and Development

Intent and scope

This chapter outlines the requirements that are unique to Fairtrade and intends to lay the foundations for producer empowerment and development to take place.

This chapter applies to the certificate holder.

4.1 Sustaining Trade

4.1.1 Sourcing plans must cover each harvest.

Sourcing plans must be renewed a minimum of three months before they expire.

4.2 Pre-finance

4.2.1 On request from the producer, the Fairtrade payer must make up to 60% of the value of the contract available as pre-finance to the producer at any time after signing the contract. The pre-finance must be made available at least six weeks prior to shipment.

4.3 Pricing

Fairtrade Minimum Prices and Fairtrade Premium levels for Fairtrade products are published separately to the product standards.

4.3.1 Payment Terms:

Payment shall be **net cash** against a full set of documents on first presentation and after quality control acceptance by both parties. The documents to be presented will be those stipulated in the contract and customary in the honey trade.

Late payment

For contracts involving Fairtrade payers and producers, payment must be made according to the international customary conditions, but as a minimum no later than 30 days after the receipt of the documents transferring ownership.

For contracts involving Fairtrade payers, producers and conveyors, conveyors must pay producers no later than 30 days after receipt of the payment from the Fairtrade payer.

4.3.2 For secondary products: There are no Fairtrade Minimum Prices defined for secondary products and their derivatives. Sellers of the product and its next buyers must negotiate prices for secondary products and their derivatives. A default Fairtrade Premium of 15% of the negotiated price must be paid in addition.

Fairtrade International reserves the right to set a Fairtrade Minimum Prices for secondary products and its derivatives in the future.