



Fairtrade Standard for Small –scale Producer Organizations Main Changes

Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations is the result of a review undertaken between April 2017 and November 2018.

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations was approved by the Standards Committee in November 2018.

This document identifies the key changes made to the Standard and includes a table describing in more detail the extent of the changes made, following the structure of the revised Standard.

This document does not describe the content of the changes in full detail. This document does not replace a detailed study of the revised Standard and is not part of the Standard.

Key changes:

- **Full review of the Standard, change of the Standard name, alignment with the Fairtrade Standard for Hired Labour and Fairtrade Trader Standard.**
- **New requirements on the decision to join Fairtrade, compliance with national law, trading with integrity, honouring contracts, internal management system for 1st grade organizations with more than 100 members, land and water rights, climate change adaptation, water resources management, protection of forests and vegetation, forced labour, drinking water for workers, Fairtrade Premium use reporting and increased oversight on Premium use, surveillance committee, gender policy, and entry criteria for new organizations.**

- Revised definition of a Small-scale Producer Organization and emphasis on family farming, strengthened management practices, increased number of workers covered by several requirements on labour conditions, strengthened protection of natural resources and health of workers, better Fairtrade Premium planning and increased oversight on Premium.
- Addition of definition section, rephrasing of intent and scope sections, simplification of wording, rewording of requirements from passive to active voice, reordering of requirements and change of requirements number, deletion of redundancies, added or improved guidance, new standard design.

Overview of the revised Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale producer organizations:

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Small-scale Producer Organizations is applicable as of 1 July 2019. This version supersedes all previous versions and includes new and changed requirements. This table shows the most important changes. New requirements or sections are marked as 'NEW', changes in existing requirements or guidance are marked as 'MODIFIED', deletions are also indicated.

Organizations that start their certification on or after the 1 July 2019 will need to comply with the applicable requirements.

Organizations that are certified before 1 July 2019 will need to comply with all applicable requirements following their regular certification cycle. However, there will be different transition periods for complying with them. If there is no particular timeline mentioned in the requirement, it means that the requirement is applicable as 1 July 2019.

Revised standard section	Type of change	Revised Standard 2019	Comments
Introduction	MODIFIED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change of title - Link to Fairtrade's theory of change and diagram, connecting standards as one intervention with the outcomes, impacts and vision of Fairtrade added - Reference to national legislation deleted as this is now a requirement in the Standard - Section on definitions added - Deletion of previous record of changes 	In the title, the term "small" has now been replaced by the term "small-scale" to clarify that it refers to the size of landholding. The title will not be changed in the Spanish or French versions of the Standard.
1. General requirements			
	MODIFIED	The Intent and Scope: aligned with requirements that have been added in this section	

Certification	MODIFIED	Guidance on requirement on contact person for certification (1.1.2, Core, Year 0) modified	Examples added on changes that are important to be identified by the appointed contact person for all certification matters.
	NEW	Requirement for new organizations added: established organization (1.1.3, Core, Year 0)	To ensure that organizations that join Fairtrade are viable and have prospects to benefit from Fairtrade.
	NEW	Requirement for new organizations added: market potential (1.1.4, Core, Year 0)	<i>Not applicable to organizations certified before 1 July 2019.</i>
	NEW	Requirement for new organizations added: decision to join Fairtrade was democratic (1.1.5, Core, Year 0)	
	NEW	Compliance with national legislation added as a requirement (1.1.6, Core, Year 0)	Compliance with national law was mentioned in the introduction in the previous Standard. It is now added as a reactive requirement to enable Fairtrade to act in case violations to national legislation take place. It also provides clarity to organizations on how to act in case that Standard contradicts with the national law.
	NEW	Requirement on land and water rights added (1.1.7, Core, Year 0)	Reactive requirement to ensure that in case of conflict, organizations are engaged in solving them. Particular emphasis on new organizations. Fairtrade would not enter to mediate in disputes but could take action in case there are substantiated allegations.
	NEW	Requirement on trading with integrity added (1.1.8, Core, Year 0)	Reactive requirement to sanction any dishonest practices.
Definition of a small-scale producer organization	MODIFIED	<p>Requirement on share of members that are small-scale producers is increased from 50% to 66% (2/3)</p> <p>Individual small-scale producer definition focusing on family labor. Seasonal workers are allowed in peak seasons (1.2.1, Core, Year 0)</p>	<p>Increased focus of the Standard on small-scale producers and family farming.</p> <p>The distinction between less labour intensive and highly labour intensive products remains. For highly intensive products and based on needs, additional indicators to the existing ones may be developed.</p> <p>For the certification of Fairtrade products the definition of a small-scale producer prevails vis-à-vis national legislation.</p> <p><i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022. Until then, the requirement 1.2.1 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i></p>

	NEW	Inclusion of maximum land size (1.2.2, Core, Year 0)	<p>Excluding large farms from small-scale producer organizations but allowing middle size farms with an upper limit of 30 hectares.</p> <p>Exceptions for oranges for juice, orange juice, and wine grapes are possible with an individual application to the certification body. For details on the conditions of the exception see the Fairtrade Standard for Fresh Fruit (requirement 1.1.2).</p> <p><i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022.</i></p>
	MODIFIED	Share of volume from small-scale producers is increased from 50% to 66% (1.2.3, Core, Year 0)	<p>Increased to 66% in line with requirement 1.2.1.</p> <p><i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 January 2022. Until then, the requirement 1.2.2 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i></p>
2. Trade			
	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: aligned with requirements that have been added in this section	
Traceability	MODIFIED	Clarification on requirement on record-keeping of Fairtrade sales (2.1.5, Core, Year 0)	Reference to 'Fairtrade International ID' modified to 'certification ID' as a Fairtrade International ID as such does not exist.
	MODIFIED	Clarification on guidance of requirement on traceability at the processing stage (2.1.8, Core, Year 0)	Reference to voluntary physical traceability added.
Contracts	MODIFIED	Reorganization of requirement on binding purchase contracts (2.3.1, Core, Year 0)	Requirement moved to the beginning of the section and reference to what the contract needs to include deleted but linked to the relevant requirement in the Trader Standard that is more complete.
	DELETED	Reference to honoring contracts if new prices are published deleted	Included in next requirement (see 2.3.4).
	NEW	Requirement on honoring contracts added (2.3.4, Core, Year 0)	To align with Trader Standard and existing compliance criteria. It includes reference to new prices published.

Use of FAIRTRADE Marks	MODIFIED	The title “Use of Fairtrade trademark” is replaced with the “Use of FAIRTRADE Marks”	Modification of title.
	MODIFIED	Guidance on requirement on artwork approval complemented (2.4.1, Core, Year 0)	Examples when artwork approval is necessary have been added.
3. Production			
	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: aligned with changes in chapters and requirements	The importance of section on management practices is underlined.
Management of Production Practices	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: aligned with changes in the requirements	
	MODIFIED	Addition of reference to the list of members in the guidance of requirement on informing members about the Standard (3.1.1, Core, Year 0)	A best practice suggestion to producers in the guidance to use members’ list for assessing their practices, clarifying how requirements 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 4.2.2 relate to each other.
	MODIFIED	Addition of reference to use farm assessment tools for assessment of risks of non-compliance (3.1.2, Core, Year 1)	A best practice suggestion to point out farm assessments could be used as a tool to identify risks of compliance of members against the Standard with the aim to promote simple, good and robust data collection. Examples of farm assessment tools will be provided in the guidance document.
	MODIFIED	Requirement on updating risks assessments of non-compliance every three years changed from Dev to Core (3.1.3, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen the periodical implementation of assessment of members’ compliance prior to the formal internal management system in place, i.e. to oversee the compliance of members at a fewer resources. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.1.3 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Procedure for monitoring and assessing performance of members changed from Dev to Core (3.1.4, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen organizational and business capacity of organizations, following the stepwise approach towards a management system, recognizing and building on existing practices. It specifies the kind of knowledge expected from the members.

			<i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.1.4 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Requirement for 2nd and 3rd grade organizations on implementation of Internal Management System changed from Dev to Core (3.1.5, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen producers' capacity to manage their cooperative and respond to the needs of their members through formalized procedure to monitor and assess their compliance. Part of this change is – renaming the Internal Control System (ICS) into the Internal Management system (IMS) and providing clarity on the main elements of the system. <i>2nd and 3rd grade organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.1.5 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	NEW	Requirement for 1st grade SPOs with more than 100 members to have an Internal Management System in place added (Req. 3.1.6, Dev, Year 3)	Builds upon 3.1.5 above, to strengthen producers' capacity to manage the 1st grade organization and respond to the needs of members. <i>1st grade organizations with more than 100 members certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i>
3.2. Environmental development			
Pest management and hazardous materials use	MODIFIED	The titles to each requirement replaced the following headings: “Integrated Pest Management”, “Proper use and handling of pesticides and other hazardous chemicals” “Choice of pesticide” Intent and Scope: aligned with changes introduced in the chapter and requirements	The new title was introduced to align with changes in the requirements of three sections. Extension of scope with the aim to encourage producers to extend their management practices to the rest of the farm.
	MODIFIED	Requirement on awareness of risks related to hazardous materials use changed from Dev to Core (3.2.6, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen practices on health protection of farmers and their families. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.6 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Requirement on members' storage of hazardous materials with minimized risks changed from Year 3 to Year 1 (3.2.10, Core, Year 1)	To strengthen practices on health protection ensuring storage of pesticides is proper and with minimized risks to those who could be exposed.

			<i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.10 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Requirement on labelling hazardous materials changed from Year 3 to Year 1 (3.2.11, Core, Year 1)	To strengthen practices on environmental protection and health protection of farmers and their families ensuring clear labelling of substances is a must. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.11 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Requirement on cleaning and storage of hazardous materials containers changed from Dev to Core (3.2.14, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen practices on environmental and health protection. <i>**Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.14 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Alignment of scope of requirement of Hazardous Materials list with Intent and Scope of the section (3.2.16, Core, Year 0)	Now both (the requirement and the Intent and Scope) refer to the Fairtrade crops and the fields where they are grown.
Soil and water	MODIFIED	Requirement on identification of land at risk of soil erosion changed from Dev to Core (3.2.20, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen promotion of practices that address challenges on natural resources use, i.e. soil and water. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.20 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Modification of requirement on enhancing soil fertility through implementation of measures (3.2.23, Dev, Year 3)	To bring focus on implementation of measures instead of reporting.
	MODIFIED	Requirement on identification of sources of water changed from Dev to Core (3.2.24, Core, Year 3)	To strengthen promotion of practices that address challenges on natural resources use, i.e. soil and water. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.24 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>

	MODIFIED	Addition of training on water quality for irrigation or processing in the list of trainings on sustainable water use (3.2.26, Dev, Year 3)	<p>Strengthening the existing requirement on water use complementing it with an additional training to encourage producers to not only seek options to stay resilient but also to improve their practices with respect to available water quality. Best practice is added to the guidance - to have assessment of water quality as a topic in the training on water quality for irrigation or processing.</p> <p>This requirement complements the new requirement 3.2.27 (see below).</p> <p><i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.2.26 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i></p>
	NEW	Requirement on efficient use of water following improved practices of water resources management added (3.2.27, Dev, Year 3)	<p>To strengthen the approach on sustainable natural resources use and encouraging producers to seek for options to stay resilient and follow improved practices of water resources management with examples of practices in the guidance.</p> <p><i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021</i></p>
Biodiversity	NEW	Requirement on protection of forests and vegetation added (3.2.31, Core, Year 0)	To explicitly prohibit activities that cause deforestation, destruction of vegetation on protected areas or on other carbon storage ecosystems at the level of organization. This requirement makes more explicit the reference to deforestation in the existing requirement 3.2.30.
	NEW	Requirement on prevention of deforestation through an established procedure at the level of organization added (3.2.32, Core, Year 1)	<p>This requirement complements requirement 3.2.31.</p> <p><i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i></p>
	MODIFIED	Modification of requirement on enhancing biodiversity (3.2.33, Dev, Year 6)	To replace 'reporting' with carrying out the measures, which does not change the practice producers need to carry out.
Climate change	NEW	New title replaced the former title "Energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions"	The new title was introduced to align with changes in the requirements of this section.
	NEW	Requirement on climate change adaptation measures added (3.2.42, Dev, Year 3)	To promote producers' resilience to climate change through adaptation practices which to be implemented in accordance with regional and

			production practices specifics as well as human and financial capacities of organization. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i>
	MODIFIED	Modification of requirement on Green House Gas emissions and carbon sequestration (3.2.44, Dev, Year 6)	To replace 'reporting' with carrying out the measures, which does not change the implementation of this requirement in practice.
3.3. Labour Conditions			
Freedom from discrimination	MODIFIED	Guidance of requirement (3.3.4, Core, Year 0) strengthened	Gender Based Violence (GBV) and other forms of harassment introduced and included in the title.
Freedom from forced or compulsory labour	MODIFIED	Modification of guidance on requirement on forced labour (3.3.5, Core, Year 0)	ILO indicators of forced labour have been included in the guidance section to help organizations assess whether they are at risk of forced labour.
	NEW	Requirement on remediation in case forced labour is identified added (3.3.6, Core, Year 1)	To ensure that right procedures are in place in case forced labour has been identified as a risk. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i>
Freedom of association and collective bargaining	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: Number of workers covered in the development section of the Standard has been reduced from 20 to 10 workers working more than 30 hours per week that are present for one month or more during a year	The number of significant workers has been previously defined by the certification body. This modification will ensure that a larger number of workers in small scale producer organizations are covered by the requirements in the Standard.
Conditions of employment	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: Number of workers covered in this section of the Standard has been reduced from 20 to 10 workers working for more than 30 hours per week that are present for one month or more during a year.	The number of significant workers has been previously defined by the certification body. This modification will ensure that a larger number of workers in small scale producer organizations are covered by the requirements in the Standard.
	MODIFIED	Requirement on employment contracts for workers changed from Dev/Year 3 to Core/Year 1 (3.3.22, Core, Year 1)	To strengthen the requirement and to promote decent work and reduction of risk of exploitative practices. The requirement has also been merged with the requirement that requires that copies of contracts are given to permanent workers.

			<i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.3.21 and 3.3.22 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
Occupational health and safety	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: Number of workers covered in this section of the Standard has been reduced from 20 to 10 workers working for more than 30 hours per week that are present for one month or more during a year with the exception of requirement of 3.3.27 which is applicable to all workers	The number of significant has been previously defined by the certification body, and will ensure that a larger number of workers in small scale producer organizations are covered by the requirements in the Standard.
	NEW	Requirement on drinking water for all workers added (3.3.27, Core, Year 0)	To ensure that field workers have access to clean drinking water. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 3.3.31 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Reorganization of requirement on restrictions on engaging in hazardous work (3.3.29, Core, Year 0)	The requirement has been merged with requirement on alternative work for simplicity and alignment with other standards.
	MODIFIED	Requirement on access to toilets, hand washing facilities and clean showers aligned with requirement 3.3.27 (3.3.31, Core, Year 0)	Providing clean water to workers has been deleted in this requirement because there is a new requirement (3.3.27) on drinking water for all workers.
4. Business and Development			
Development Potential	NEW	Intent and Scope: Requirements 4.1.2 to 4.1.15 are only applicable once the organization has sold under Fairtrade terms and has received Fairtrade Premium.	To ensure that only those SPOs who have sold under Fairtrade conditions and have received Fairtrade Premium will be audited against this requirement.
	MODIFIED	Requirement on needs identification changed from Dev/Year 6 to Core /Year 1 (4.1.1, Core, Year 1)	To ensure that a comprehensive planning and prioritization processes takes place before a decision on how to use the Premium takes place. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 4.1.10 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Guidance on requirement on Fairtrade Development Plan modified (4.1.2 , Core, Year 1)	Guidance section connected to requirement on needs identification (4.1.1).

	MODIFIED	Reorganization of requirement on Fairtrade Development Plan for 2nd and 3rd grade organizations (4.1.3, Core, Year 1)	The requirement was previously included in requirement 4.1.2. It is now a stand-alone requirement to ensure more clarity and visibility.
	MODIFIED	Guidance on requirement on Fairtrade Premium added (4.1.4, Core, Year 1)	Additional guidance on Premium use is provided in order to make the best use of the Fairtrade Premium and maximize its impact.
	NEW	Requirement on financial audit on Fairtrade Premium added (4.1.6, Core, Year 1)	Organizations receiving a premium of over 150,000 USD/EUR to have an independent financial audit to ensure internal control and to be in line with compliance criteria.
	NEW	Requirement on Fairtrade Premium use reporting added (4.1.10, Core, Year 1)	Report on premium use on an annual basis to be used as a communication tool in the market side. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i>
	NEW	Requirement on responsible management of Fairtrade Premium added (4.1.11, Core Year 1)	To highlight that misuse of Premium is not acceptable.
Democracy, Participation and Transparency	MODIFIED	Intent and Scope: Guidance Notes to the Co-operative Principles from the International Cooperative Alliance added	Additional reference on promotion of cooperatives.
	MODIFIED	Separating roles and responsibilities between the board and management (4.2.1, Core, Year 0)	Clarity between the 2 roles is provided in order to avoid extreme situations of either power concentration or insufficient room for decision making. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 4.2.1 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Modification of the requirement on defining membership and member information (4.2.2, Core Year 0)	To provide clarity to members on what information to collect and conditions and added guidance on double membership. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 4.2.2 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>

	MODIFIED	Introducing board term limits to requirement on membership rules and regulations (4.2.3, Core, Year 0)	To improve good governance practices among SPOs. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 4.2.3 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Clarification on ownership of bank account (4.2.10, Core, Year 0)	Bank account should be in the name of the organization.
	NEW	Addition of a surveillance committee (4.2.11, Core, Year 1)	To oversee the overall administration of the organization (including the use of Premium) on behalf of the members in order to enhance members' control over the organization. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i>
	MODIFIED	Non-members in the Board and their role (4.2.12, Core Year 0)	Non- members e.g. traders in the Board can have an advisory role but with no voting rights. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 4.2.12 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies.</i>
	MODIFIED	Requirement on sharing audit results with members changed from Dev to Core (4.2.13, Core, Year 3)	To increase the accountability of the management towards members and gives members more information about how the organization is performing. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021. Until then, the requirement 4.2.13 of the Fairtrade Standard for SPO Version 01.05.2011_v1.5 applies</i>
Non Discrimination	MODIFIED	Guidance on requirement on Identification of disadvantaged/minority groups modified (4.3.3, Dev Year 3)	Definition of disadvantaged and minority groups defined in the guidance section.
	NEW	Introduction of a gender policy (4.3.4, Dev Year 3)	To Increase women's active and equal participation in Fairtrade and empowering more women and girls with opportunities to access equitable benefits of Fairtrade. Each organization can decide on which areas of gender equality and women's empowerment to focus on. <i>Organizations certified before 1 July 2019 have to comply with this requirement by 1 April 2021.</i>

Annex 1	MODIFIED	Fairtrade Geographical Scope Policy of Producer Certification shortened	To refer only to the list of countries in the scope. A link to the full policy is indicated.
Annex 2	MODIFIED	Hazardous Materials List shortened	The introduction part to the annex was shortened and complemented with a link to the full Hazardous Materials List document.