

Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa, current version: 27.09.2023_v.2.2

Timeline for implementation for new requirements taking effect in January 2024

Fairtrade has introduced a new approach to assurance that encourages continuous improvement and progress. The gradual implementation ensures that producers and trader have enough time to prepare, and to build their systems step by step to achieve full compliance with the standard.

For some of the new requirements in the [revised Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa](#), a timeline for implementation was developed. This timeline details how implementation of the new requirements can be phased by Producer Organizations over several years, and what will be checked by the certification body in which year. This list is complimentary to the standard.

In case of any questions, please contact: standards-pricing@fairtrade.net

Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa requirement	Timeline for implementation
2.1.4 Product Tracing Solutions <i>Applies to: SPOs in Africa, Asia</i> <i>Core, year 3</i>	<p>As of Jan. 2024: The organization researches tools needed to trace the cocoa beans and starts to deploy the tool.</p> <p>As of Jan. 2025: You fully comply with the requirement.</p>
3.1.4 Records of Farm Operators <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 3</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You have some farmers records available.</p> <p>As of January 2025: You have all relevant farmers records available, updated annually and all farmers are sensitized on Fairtrade Standards.</p>
3.2.5 Human Rights Policy and Procedures <i>Applies to: SPOs in Africa, Asia</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You draft policies to mitigate, prevent and remediate the three most serious human rights and environmental risks or challenges you have identified through your risk assessment. A governance body approves the HREDD policies and procedures and these are communicated to management, staff, members, farm operators and workers.</p> <p>As of January 2025: You implement the policies. You communicate the policies to buyers, suppliers, job</p>



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	brokers and contractors. You fully comply with the requirement.
3.2.6 Action Plans <i>Applies to: SPOs in Africa, Asia</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You draft an action plan to prevent, mitigate, cease and remediate the most serious risks identified by your risk assessment and informed by your policies which you are drafting.</p> <p>As of January 2025: A governance body (e.g. General Assembly) approves your action plan and you started its implementation.</p> <p>As of January 2026: You revise the plan annually and you fully implement the requirement.</p>
3.3.1 Monitoring and Remediation for Child Labour and Forced Labour <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 3</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You make a plan how to build the system in your organization.</p> <p>As of January 2025: You start to implement the system gradually.</p> <p>As of Jan. 2026: You roll out the system across your membership and organization.</p>
3.3.5 School Attendance <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You identify root causes for lack of school attendance and define actions to mitigate it.</p> <p>As of January 2025: You carry out one activity.</p> <p>As of January 2026: You carry out another activity.</p>
3.3.6 Vocational Training and Employment <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You make a plan how to promote decent employment.</p> <p>As of January 2025: You carry out one activity.</p> <p>As of January 2026: You carry out another activity.</p>
3.3.7 Vulnerable Groups <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	<p>As of January 2024: You identify vulnerable groups and make a plan how to support them.</p> <p>As of January 2025: You roll out your plan with at least one activity carried out.</p> <p>As of January 2026: You have rolled out your full plan and carry out activities.</p>



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3.3.8 Equal Opportunities <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	As of Jan 2024: You research and make a plan how to support equality among your members and in the organization. As of January 2025: You carry out one activity. As of January 2026: You carry out activities.
3.4.1 Protection of forests and ecosystems <i>Applies to: SPOs</i> <i>Core, year 0</i>	Until requirement 3.4.5 becomes applicable in Latin America and Caribbean, this requirement will be audited similarly to SPO standard requirement 3.2.31 in this region.
3.4.3 Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Plan <i>Applies to: SPOs</i> <i>Core, year 1</i>	As of Jan 2024: You draft a Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Plan. As of Jan 2025: You start to implement your Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Plan. As of Jan 2026: You fully implement your Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Plan.
4.3.5 Recording Fairtrade Payments to Members <i>Applies to: SPOs in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana</i> <i>Core, year 3</i>	As of Jan 2024: You decide on a tool and start to roll it out. As of Jan 2025: You fully comply with the requirement.