



FAIRTRADE STANDARDS

FOR Honey

FOR

Small Farmers' Organisations

PART A Generic Fairtrade Standards for Small Farmers' Organisations
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Refer to the generic standard for Small Farmers' Organisations as a separate document as updated by FLO on its website. Note that the following parts B and C are only applicable in connection with the generic standard.

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The product specific standards for honey apply to all products and countries for which a Fairtrade price and/or premium is set in part C below.

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PART B Product Specific Standards for Honey

1 Social Development

There are no additional social standards specific to honey producers.

2 Economic Development

There are no additional economic standards specific to honey producers.

3 Environmental Development

There are no additional environmental standards specific to honey producers.

PART C Trade Standards for Honey

1. 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 and combine with specific substances and store in honey combs."

"Honey essentially consists of different sugars, predominantly glucose and fructose. Honey also contains proteins, amino acids, enzymes, organic acids, minerals, pollen and may include sucrose, maltose, melezitose and other oligosaccharides (including dextrans) as well as traces of fungi, algae, yeasts and other solid particles. The colour varying from nearly colourless to dark brown. The consistency may be fluid, viscous or partly to entirely crystallised. Flavour and aroma varies according to the plant origin."

2. Quality

Basically the honey has to fulfil the EU and Swiss quality standards (general description as above).

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 has to be limited strictly to the non-productive season and in addition has to be kept at the absolute minimum necessary.

Quality control prior to shipment has to be carried out through an independent agent unless otherwise agreed between seller and buyer.

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

2.1 Definition of the quality standards for honey

Honey traded under FLO conditions will be classified into two categories, according to its quality. Relevant for differentiating the quality, two criteria standards are defined: water content and Hydroxymethylfulfural (HMF). For each category points are given according to following scheme:

Table 1: Assessing the water content in honey

<u>Water content (% Chataway)</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Max. points</u>
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

<u>HMF content (ppm)</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Max. points</u>
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

If the total number of points of the two established quality standards are added, 35 points can be reached as a maximum. According with this method two categories of qualities are defined:

A Quality: Each kind of honey, which gathers 18 or more points.

B Quality: Each kind of honey, which gathers 17 or less points.

The quality control prior to shipment has to be carried out through an independent agent unless agreed on otherwise between seller and buyer.

3. Pricing

Basis for the pricing is the commitment of Fair Trade organizations to offer a price covering all production costs including a comparatively good remuneration of labour, allowing members and their families adequate living conditions and leaving producer organizations with a margin to pay for supporting services to beekeepers and social development activities within the community.

Regular records on the cost of production are made by each FLO certified producer organization.

Application: All producing countries	Fairtrade minimum FOB price USD / kg	Fairtrade Premium USD / kg	Total Fairtrade price USD / kg	Organic differential USD / kg	Total Fairtrade Organic price USD / kg
A Quality	1.80	0.15	1.95	0.15	2.10
B Quality	1.65	0.15	1.80	0.15	1.95

In cases where the market price in a producer country rises above the FLO minimum price, the respective market price applies.

4. Credit/Payment

On request of the seller, the buyer shall make available up to 60% of the minimum value of the contract in credit facilities in favour of the seller upon the signing of the Letter of Intent, or at any date thereafter at the wishes of the seller, however **at least six weeks prior to shipment**. The corresponding interest charges shall be covered by the seller at current commercial interest rates (or better) in the country of destination. Reimbursement of the loan and the interest charges shall be according to the terms and conditions mutually agreed upon in the separate credit contract.

Unless other mutual agreement payment shall be net cash, minus eventual advance payments, following a quality control accepted by both parties prior to shipment and against a full set of documents on first presentation (FOB).

5. Continuity

To allow producer organisations a certain continuity in their markets buyers should guarantee minimum orders for the period of at least one year. Renewals are to be effected at least three months prior to expiry.