
Fairtrade International Public Report on granted and valid Exceptions

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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 and valid in 2022 (except Product composition Exceptions, which are listed in Table 2)

Exception Category	Number of Exceptions
Product Compensation (Trader Standard 1.1.4)	49
Overtime Exception (Hired Labour Standard 3.5.10)	68
Retro-Certification (Exceptions Policy 1.1.2)	42
Physical Traceability Composite Products (Trader Standard 2.1.7)	6
Premium Committee (Hired Labour Standard 2.1.11)	<3

Table 2 – Product composition Exceptions granted and valid in 2022 (for the use of non-Fairtrade ingredients per Exception reason)

Exception Reason	Product Category	Number of Exceptions
Inadequate Quality	Fruits & Vegetables	45
	Sugar	29
	Nuts	23
	Herbs, Herbal Teas & Spices	18
	Natural Flavour	10
	Oilseeds & Oleaginous Fruit	8
	Cereals	5
	Cocoa	5
	Coffee	3
	Honey	<3
Supply Shortage	Herbs, Herbal Teas & Spices	22
	Fruits & Vegetables	7
	Nuts	4
	Oilseeds & Oleaginous Fruit	3
	Sugar	3
	Flowers & Plants	<3
Provenance	Herbs, Herbal Teas & Spices	3
Unavailable Ingredient	Natural Flavour	195
	Fruits & Vegetables	142
	Herbs, Herbal Teas & Spices	107
	E (additives)	60

Table 2 (continued)

Exception Reason	Product Category	Number of Exceptions
Unavailable Ingredient (continued)	Essential Oils	36
	Oilseeds & Oleaginous Fruit	29
	Sugar	25
	Nuts	24
	Cereals	19
	Cocoa	7
	Tea	5
Sourcing Constraints	Herbs, Herbal Teas & Spices	98
	Fruits & Vegetables	55
	Nuts	24
	Sugar	18
	Natural Flavour	17
	Oilseeds & Oleaginous Fruit	10
	Cocoa	6
	Honey	3
	Cereals	<3
	Coffee	<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.