



Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa

Main Changes

Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa is the result of a review undertaken in 2020-2023.

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa was approved by the Standards Committee in March 2023.

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 new standard.

This document does not describe the content of the changes in full detail. This document shall not replace a detailed study of the new standard and it is not part of the standard.

Key changes:

- Chapter 3: Requirements on Internal Management Systems amended, newly added and sequence of requirements changed.

Overview of the 2023 revised Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa:

This table shows the most important changes.

New standard section	New Standard 2023	Comments
3. Production	Intent: To enable effective management that supports SPOs to comply with Fairtrade standards and to deliver services to their members; and to advance respect for human rights and the environment in the supply chains, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and core ILO Conventions.	
3.1 Management Systems Member registration and agreements	Member Information (SPOs, core, year 0) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	SPOs improve their datasets on farmer members, enabling more effective risk management and more targeted service delivery based on member need.
	Digital Member Data (SPOs, core, year 3) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	see above
	Membership Agreement (SPOs, core, year 0) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	To strengthen the existing Membership Agreement requirement, stipulating that additional rights and obligations be included to further clarify the relationship between the SPO and farmer member.
Compliance Management	Compliance Management (SPOs, core, year 3) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Strengthen SPO internal inspection systems by requiring certain elements and processes to be in place, enabling better detection and management of compliance risks.
	Internal Inspectors (SPOs, core, year 3) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Strengthen SPO internal inspection systems by requiring an adequate number of internal inspectors to be operational based on recommended ratios. Successful work with the Fairtrade Standard requires constant follow up on developing and maintaining internal policies. SPOs should be aware of this

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		when they seek certification and commit to recruiting enough inspectors and regularly provide them with training.
Management Effectiveness	Management Systems and Data (SPOs, core, year 3) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Ensuring that SPOs have more control and oversight over their management system and it's data.
	Sharing Management System Data (payer, conveyor, core) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Payers, conveyors often collect quite extensive data on SPO members and their farms, and so should share this data with their SPO partners, so that SPOs can analyze this data and gain additional insight about their membership.
	Communicating Organisational Structure (SPOs, core, year 1) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Improve communication and collaboration across employees and the wider membership hereby promoting transparency and inclusivity and reducing duplication and silos.
	Regular Staff Training (SPOs, core, year 1) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Successful work with the Fairtrade Standard requires constant follow up on developing and maintaining internal policies. SPOs should be aware of this when they seek certification and commit to regularly provide training.
	Management Capacity Assessment (SPOs, core, year 3) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	To support SPOs in recognizing their strengths and weakness regarding the implementation of Fairtrade standards and organisational development and to encourage progressive improvements in the effectiveness of the organization. The objective of a Management Capacity Assessment is to evaluate the capacity and systems of the organisation in several key management areas, for example: strategy, financial management, member engagement, sales and marketing, service provision, IMS, etc. It is a "self-assessment" and a starting point for improvement in areas where weaknesses are identified. It is envisaged that an auditor will not check that the

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		answers given are correct/incorrect, but instead focus on whether the assessment was completed in a thorough way.
	Financial Agreements (SPOs, core, year 1) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	To improve the understanding at farmer level of their SPO's financial/commercial agreements (e.g. committed sales, joint programs, performance indicators, etc) supporting transparency and increasing farmer knowledge of the organisation's business.
	Cost Benefit Analysis (SPOs, development, year 3) <i>Takes effect in January 2025.</i>	Farmers and SPOs should be aware of the necessary outlay Vs the financial benefits they will receive for Fairtrade certification to enable informed decision making.