



# Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants Main Changes October 2023

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## Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants is the result of a review undertaken between July 2022 and November 2022.

The revised Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants was approved by the Standards Committee in November 2022.

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. It does not replace a detailed study of the revised standard and is not part of the standard.

### Key changes:

- **Full review of the standard.**
- **New requirements on management and use of the Fairtrade Premium, Prevention of Sexual Misconduct, Carbon Footprint, Climate Resilience, Water Management, Reporting on Environmental Indicators and Wage Levels, Integrated Pest Management, Sourcing Plans, Regional Auctions, Retro-Certification, Bouquet Composition and Timely Payments**  
**Addition to the definition section, simplification of wording, reorganization of requirements, deletion of redundancies, added or improved guidance,**

## Overview of the 2023 revised Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants:

This table shows the most important changes, specifying if these are modifications, deletions or new additions.

Revised standard section	Type of change	Revised Standard 2023	Comments
Introduction	Modified	Revision of the description of product groups to Fairtrade Finished Plants and Fairtrade Plants (removal of the term Fairtrade Young Plant Material).  Addition of the definitions for Fairtrade Payer, Regional Auction, Carbon Footprint, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaption, Greenhouse Gas.	The revision of descriptions was to aid clarity in the meaning throughout the standard.
<b>1.General requirements</b>			
1.2.1 Flower bouquet composition	Modified	All flowers sold as Fairtrade must be certified as Fairtrade or follow the Fairtrade Sourced Ingredient (FSI) rules.	This will provide more clarity for the consumers.
<b>2.Social development</b>	Intent: To lay the foundations for producer empowerment and development to take place.		
2.1.1 Self-assessment of Fairtrade Premium Committee	Modified	Guidance section modified to specify that self- assessment should be done at least every 3 years, external training should be carefully reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of the Fairtrade Premium Committee (FPC) and that training is available from Producer Networks (PNs) to support producers.	This will help ensure that training is fit for purpose.
2.1.2 Premium reporting	Modified	The reporting of premium is now only completed via the premium reporting platform only.	

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2.1.3 FPC membership	New	The roles of management and any union representatives are clearly defined within the FPC.	This provides more clarity.
2.1.4 Financial audit on Fairtrade Premium (FP)	New	If the FP spent is above \$50,000, the FPC contracts an annual audit of accounts. At least 3 audit companies are proposed by management and selected by the FPC and general assembly.	This helps to increase oversight on the use of the Fairtrade Premium. The PN may prepare a list of recommended auditors.
2.1.5 Provisions in case of decertification or dissolution	New	If the company is decertified or ceases to operate the FPC engages the PN to ensure equitable sharing of the premium and any assets amongst workers.	This provides clarity for action by the PNs.
2.1.6 Use of FP	New	If investing in projects over \$5,000 the FPC investigates joint or collaborative projects with other certified producers in the region. Before investing in food subsidies, the FPC plans and implements at least one project with long term benefits.	This will improve the sustainability and use of FP.
<b>3. Labour conditions</b>	<b>Intent: To ensure decent working conditions.</b>		
3.1.2 Policy and training against sexual harassment	Modified	The addition of remediation in cases of sexual harassment. Additional guidance added.	This will strengthen protection of workers.
3.1.3 Reporting on sexual misconduct	New	Requirement for allegation reporting and case management.	This will strengthen protection of workers.
3.2.1 Floor wages	Modified	Modified to refer to the Global Poverty Line and no reference to a specific figure.	

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3.2.2 Mandatory Wage Reporting	New	Companies report on wages paid using a standard template provided.	This will help provide information as we move towards living wage.
3.3.8 Providing workers with appropriate tools	Modified	The requirement is strengthened to ensure that workers handling chemicals, pesticides or carrying out hazardous work are provided with appropriate uniform and are protected.	
<b>4. Environmental development</b>	<b>Intent: To ensure that the company has agricultural and environmental practices that contribute to a more sustainable production system where risks to health and the environment are minimized.</b>		
4.1.4 Collection of environmental data	New	Data on environmental indicators, for example water, fertilizer and pesticide use are collected in line with Floriculture Sustainability Initiative (FSI).	
4.1.5 Integrated Pest Management	New	An Integrated Pest Management Plan is developed.	This will help reduce reliance on crop protection products and ensure they are used most effectively.
4.3.1 Consulting with surrounding communities	Modified	The requirement is changed from Dev Year 3 to Core Year 0. Addition to guidance added	This acknowledges climate change risks.
4.3.2 Water Management Plan	New	A water management plan is developed which includes sourcing and efficient use of water.	The sourcing and efficient water use are key for sustainability.
4.4.1 Carbon footprint	New	Companies, Fairtrade Payers, Conveyors and Traders complete a carbon footprint of their operation per stem or plant (scope 1,2 and 3) and have a plan to reduce the carbon footprint.	Awareness of and action to reduce carbon emissions are key for sustainability.

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4.4.2 Climate resilience	New	Environmental risks to companies are identified and recorded. A climate adaptation plan is developed and implemented. Progress and impact are documented annually.	The climate resilience plan helps producers prepare for change.
<b>5.Trade</b>	<b>Intent: To provide maximum benefits to producers, while remaining credible to consumers.</b>		
5.1.1 Sourcing plans	New	This replaces the previous requirements on sourcing plans. It requires the Fairtrade payer to buy at least 60% of their volume from core producers which they purchase from on a consistent weekly basis.	supports long-term commitments.
5.2.1 Contracts	Modified	Strengthened the requirement to include terms of delivery using international commercial terms and agreement on applicable jurisdiction.	
5.2.2 Confirmation of purchase order	Modified	The requirement does not apply to auction sales. Auctions confirm the final sale in writing to the producer after the action.	
5.4.1 Agreement on market price	Modified	Does not apply to auctions	
5.4.4 Timely payments	Modified	FP monies can be paid less frequently in the case of low sales and requested by the FPC e.g., to avoid high bank charges	
5.5.1 Auction contracts with companies	New	Sales via regional auctions where the auction becomes the Fairtrade payer. The premium is paid at 6% on top of the auction price and not 10% of FOB. The auction must have a license contract with the home NFO, and complete other documentation as required.	This provides another route to market for Fairtrade flowers and plants targeted at florists and garden centers.

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5.6.1 Retro-Certification rules	New	Retro-certification of flowers from Fairtrade companies is permitted for flowers in mixed bouquets (not for straight line single ingredient products). Only the Fairtrade payer can retro-certify, the correct price and premium should be paid.	This is designed to facilitate additional sales of Fairtrade flowers which cannot currently be fulfilled due to late orders
5.6.2 Retro-Certification reporting	New	The Fairtrade payer notifies the company weekly, and a monthly overview is prepared for auditing by the certification body.	
5.6.3 Retro-Certification limits	New	The Fairtrade company (producer) must agree to retro-certification for their flowers, e.g., by signing the sourcing plan. A maximum of 25% volume on top of the Fairtrade volume purchased can be retro-certified. Flowers can be retro-certified up to 7 days after delivery	