



To: Cocoa producers
Traders
Fairtrade members
cc: Standards Committee
Fairtrade International staff
FLOCERT staff

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Revised Cocoa Standard for Small-scale Producer Organisations and Traders

Dear Fairtrade partners,

The Fairtrade International Standards Committee decided on a revised version of the Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa applicable to Small-scale Producer Organisations (SPOs) and traders. For details on the decision please refer to the minutes of the Standards Committee meetings available on our website [here](#).

The revised Cocoa Standard for SPOs and traders is available [in English](#). Translated versions in Spanish and French will be published soonest [here](#).

In this revision, 12 requirements describing an Internal Management System (IMS) were changed, newly added, or relocated in the standard. With an effective IMS producers have capacity to identify and implement improvements based on field-level monitoring of farmer adoption rates of better practices. Producer capacity is strengthened to better manage their organizations and provide benefits to members and commercial partners. An effective IMS is a critical tool to contribute to the organizational development of a producer organisation improving their access to premium markets. These requirements will become applicable in January 2025.

Fairtrade has developed several documents and tools which are now available to support the implementation of requirements published in 2022 and 2023:

1. A [main changes document](#), listing the changes in the Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa. 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.
2. A [timeline for implementation](#) for requirements coming into 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 traders have enough time to prepare, and to build their systems step by step to achieve full compliance with the standard.
3. A [guidance on managing relationships with farm operators](#), relevant for Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.
4. A [Monitoring and Remediation System Definition](#), relevant for requirement 3.3.1 Monitoring and Remediation for Child Labour and Forced Labour, applicable in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

Soon, an interpretation note will be published [here](#), explaining data submission for requirements in section 3.4 Deforestation Prevention & Environmental Development of the Standard.

Moreover, more additional guidance to the revised Fairtrade Standard for Cocoa will be provided in 2023 and 2024, and will be published [here](#).

For more information, please contact Kerstin Cron at: k.cron@fairtrade.net.

Best regards,

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