

SUPPLY CHAIN REQUIREMENTS

FOR ALL RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

A-35-SRCL-B-SC
Version 1.5
EN

**RAINFOREST
ALLIANCE**



ABOUT THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities.

Translation Disclaimer

For any question related to the precise meaning of the information contained in the translation, please refer to the official English version for clarification.

Any discrepancies or differences in meaning due to translation are not binding and have no effect for auditing or certification purposes.

More information?

For more information about the Rainforest Alliance, visit www.rainforest-alliance.org contact info@ra.org. Also, reach the Rainforest Alliance Amsterdam Office, De Ruijterkade 6, 1013AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

For help in obtaining a Rainforest Alliance certificate reach out to our Customer Success team at customersuccess@ra.org

The Standard Requirements are binding and must be complied with for certification.

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A-1-S-B-FA-V1.4 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements.
A-33-R-B-FA Version 1.0 EN Rainforest Alliance Regenerative Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements,
A-38-SRCL-B-SC_V1.1EN_Rainforest Alliance Certification and Auditing Rules for Supply Chain.
All other annexes, guidance documents and policies listed in this document.

Replaces:

A-02-S-B-SC-V1.4EN Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Supply Chain Requirements

Applicable to:

Supply Chain Certificate Holders

Country/Region:

All

Crops:

All crops in the scope of the Rainforest Alliance certification program; please see the Rainforest Alliance Crop List

Type of certification:

Supply chain

KEY CHANGES IN VERSION 1.5

Overview of key adaptations in this document

A-02-SRCL-B-SC-V1.5EN Rainforest Alliance Supply Chain Requirements, published September 8, 2025,
compared to

A-02-S-B-SC-V1.4EN Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Supply Chain Requirements, published March 3rd, 2025

Requirement number	Subject	Change
General	Standard document	Simplified: One set of supply chain requirements applies to supply chain certificate holders who buy and/or sell products certified to either the Sustainable Agriculture Standard or the Regenerative Agriculture Standard.

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INTRODUCTION

For nearly 40 years, the Rainforest Alliance has worked to restore balance between people and nature, placing farmers and forest communities at the center of our efforts. We pioneered certification as a key tool for impact, reaching over 7.9 million farmers and workers and 7,800 company partners.

As one of the world's largest sustainability certification programs, we see firsthand how certification is transforming markets. Our approach emphasizes robust supply chain requirements, promoting transparency, supporting farmers, and encouraging responsible business practices across all actors, ensuring sustainability extends beyond the farm.

INTRODUCING OUR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE STANDARD

Global agriculture faces growing challenges from soil degradation, water stress, and biodiversity loss. Our new Regenerative Agriculture Standard, offered alongside the Sustainable Agriculture Standard, provides a specialized pathway for partners to advance regenerative practices at the farm level, focusing on soil health and fertility, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

ONE SET OF STREAMLINED SUPPLY CHAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STANDARDS

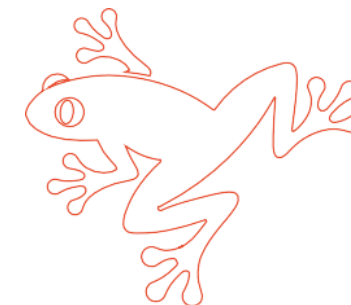
The Rainforest Alliance certification program includes a focused set of documents that guides (potential) Certificate Holders through the certification process. The Supply Chain Requirements contain chapters for Management, Administration, Traceability and Premium, as well as a chapter that supports human rights in our highest risk areas.

Going forward, all Rainforest Alliance certification standards follow a single set of supply chain requirements—applicable whether volumes are certified under the Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Regenerative Agriculture Standard, or both—simplifying processes for partners and ensuring consistency across standards.

The Supply Chain Requirements have been developed with simplification and clarity as our leading principles, based on the feedback and learnings gathered in the last few years. Our certification program is now more user-friendly and streamlined than before, removing unnecessary complexity and strengthening our data-driven approach.

STANDARD DEVELOPMENT

The Rainforest Alliance is a code-compliant member of ISEAL. In developing the Regenerative Agriculture Standard, we followed the principles of the ISEAL Code of Good Practice, consulting with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure the standard is relevant, transparent, and balanced.



THE RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFICATION SOLUTIONS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STANDARD

FARM REQUIREMENTS

REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE STANDARD

FARM REQUIREMENTS (add-on or standalone)

SUPPLY CHAIN REQUIREMENTS

Annexes (binding):

Compliance is required for certification.

Policies (binding):

Policies are context-specific and may be applicable for a particular region or crop; compliance is required for certification within the specified context(s).

Guidance documents (non-binding):

Supporting documents to help implementation; not required for certification.



ASSURANCE SYSTEM

- **Auditing Rules** set out how auditors evaluate compliance with the Farm and Supply Chain Requirements.
- **Certification Rules** ensure that Certification Bodies consistently deliver Rainforest Alliance audits of the highest quality.
- **Rules for Certification Bodies** determine which organizations can carry out audits against our certification solutions, and set rules for Certification Bodies' personnel



DATA SYSTEMS AND TOOLS

Certificate holders at farm and supply chain level will register for membership, manage verification and audit processes, and record sales transactions of certified products on our platform.

New IT-based tools are being developed and made available to better track and manage sustainability performance against the requirements of our certification solutions.

OVERVIEW OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN REQUIREMENTS

The requirements in this document are organized in chapters based on their principal themes.

As part of the assurance system, data is collected through the registration and profile completion process on the Rainforest Alliance Certification Platform.

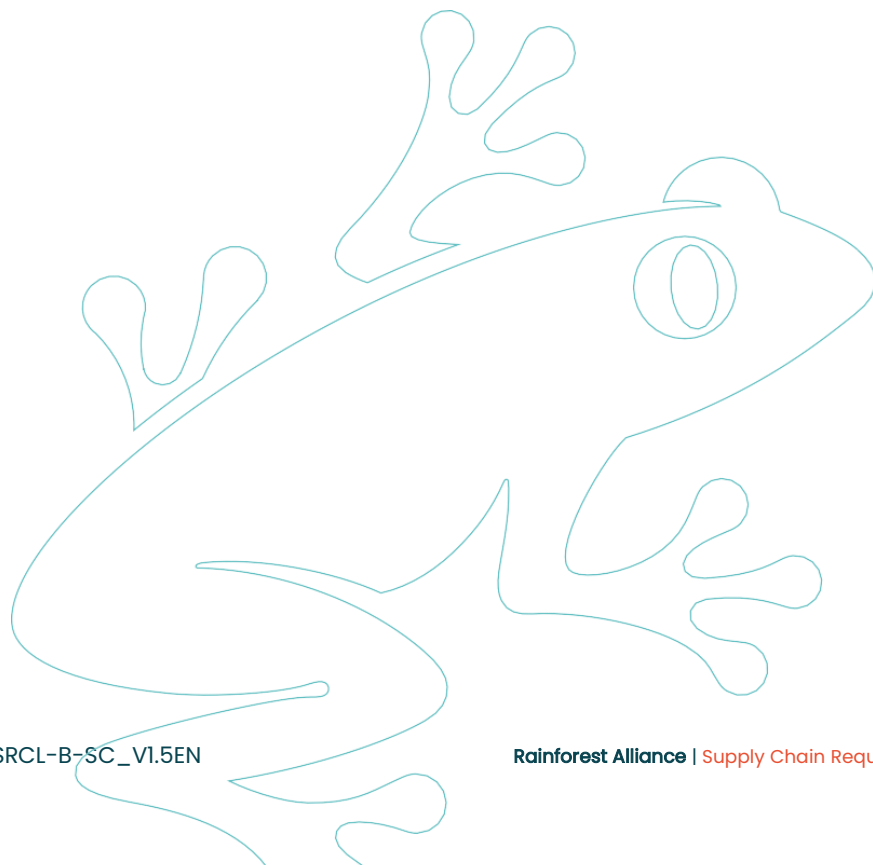
We use the activities, location, crop and volume information captured through this process, combined with other data (such as compliance, social risks, and others) specific to each individual operation, to create an organizational profile. A list of mandatory requirements will be generated for your organizational profile.

1. Management	
1.1	Management
1.2	Administration
1.3	Internal Inspection
1.4	Grievance Mechanism
2. Traceability	
2.1	Traceability
2.2	Traceability in Online Platform
2.3	Mass Balance
3. Premium	
3.1	Premium
4. Social	
4.1	Social

CHAPTER 1:

MANAGEMENT

The Rainforest Alliance aims for certified organizations to be managed efficiently, transparently, inclusively, and economically viable. Companies must implement an integrated planning and management system with processes and procedures for continuous improvement. This chapter covers topics related to management and responsible business conduct, following a process of assessment, planning, implementation, evaluation, and adjustment.



1.1 Management

1.1.1	There is a clearly documented and implemented <u>management plan</u> that addresses each applicable Rainforest Alliance Supply Chain Requirement. Documented procedures shall include: - A flowchart of the products originating from <u>certified farms</u>, identifying all <u>processing</u> steps and points where products/ingredients from non-certified sources may enter or where <u>certified products</u> may leave the system; - Procedures and records for controlling the reception, processing, mixing, storing, packaging, delivery, transport and resale of products from certified farms; and - Responsibilities of the <u>employees</u> involved with the supply chain management plan.
1.1.2	The Supply Chain <u>Certificate Holder</u> has established and communicated policies to address direct and indirect <u>human rights</u> and environmental impacts, promoting <u>responsible business conduct</u> throughout the supply chain. These policies apply to the Certificate Holder's operations, suppliers, and business partners, ensuring ethical practices and sustainability. Importance: These policies commit to preventing human rights abuses, protect the environment, and promote sustainable practices, ensuring compliance with global ethical standards. Scope: Applies to the Certificate Holder's operations, suppliers, and business partners, with expectations outlined in formal agreements. Commitment: - Compliance with <u>applicable laws</u> and relevant standards on human rights and environmental protection, including employee rights and <u>waste</u> management. - Adherence to international standards like OECD <u>Due Diligence</u> and UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights. Oversight: Senior management oversees implementation and accountability. Communication: The policy is communicated to all stakeholders through contracts, training, and ongoing engagement. For more detail and a model policy, consult the OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains (pages 25–29).
1.1.3	At least one management representative is accountable for the following topics and for forming committee(s) of responsible persons. One committee may cover more than one topic: • Grievance Mechanism (see 1.4.1) • Assess-and-address child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment (see 4.1) The committee(s): - Have expert knowledge of the topics and decision-making power. - Include representatives of the employees in supply chain operations, selected by employees. - Are impartial, accessible, <u>gender-sensitive</u>, and trusted by the employees, including <u>vulnerable groups</u>.

1.2 Administration

1.2.1	Records for <u>certification</u> purposes and compliance are kept for at least five years.
1.2.2	Employees have been trained and possess the knowledge and skills to effectively implement the Supply Chain management plan.

1.3 Internal Inspection

1.3.1	Management has an <u>internal inspection</u> system in place to annually assess compliance with all applicable requirements for all <u>actors</u> within their <u>scope of certification</u> , including <u>sites</u> and <u>subcontractors</u> .
1.3.2	An approval and sanction system is in place to ensure compliance of sites with the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard. The system includes: • A written approval and sanction procedure. • An approval and sanction manager or committee. • A mechanism to follow up on sites' improvement and corrective measures. • A decision on each site's certification status, signed and documented, and included in the final internal inspection report.

1.4 Grievance Mechanism

1.4.1	A Grievance Mechanism is in place that enables individuals, employees, <u>communities</u>, and civil society, including whistle-blowers, to raise complaints related to the Certificate Holder's business activities. Complaints can relate to any part of the Standard, including technical, social, or economic issues. The Grievance Mechanism may be provided by the Certificate Holder or by a third party. The Grievance Mechanism (see requirement 1.1.3) includes at least the following elements: • Submissions in any language and accessible to persons without reading skills or internet access. • Acceptance of anonymous <u>grievances</u> with <u>confidentiality</u>. • <u>Remediation</u> of human and labor rights issues per the <u>Remediation Protocol</u>. • Documentation and timely sharing of grievances and actions taken with affected persons. • Protection against retribution for persons submitting grievances. <i>Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH Social Annex</i> <i>Please see SA-G-SD-6 Guidance Document E: Grievance Mechanism</i>
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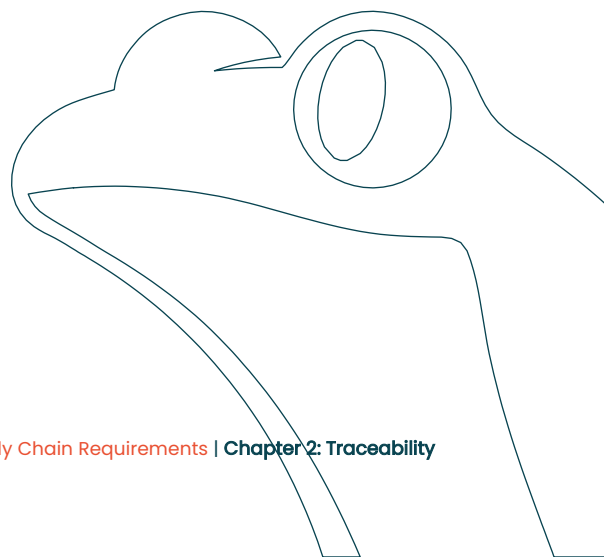
CHAPTER 2:

TRACEABILITY

A successful and credible certification program must give its users the confidence that certified products are sourced in compliance with the applicable requirements set out in the Standard.

This requires a robust, transparent system to track products from the certified farm along the supply chain up to the final manufacturer of finished consumer products.

The requirements in this chapter provide Certificate Holders with a framework to accurately segregate and track volumes of Rainforest Alliance certified products from non-certified and from each other (volumes certified as Sustainable Agriculture segregated from volumes certified as Regenerative Agriculture). It also includes reporting any activities performed on the certified product, such as conversions and sales, in the Rainforest Alliance Traceability Platform.



2.1 Traceability

2.1.1	Products certified against Rainforest Alliance Standards must be visually separated from non-certified products and from each other at all stages, including transport, storage, and processing.
2.1.2	The correct methodology for the calculation of conversion factors is demonstrated and documented for each certified product and is accurately reflected in the <u>traceability platform</u>. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>
2.1.3	A volume summary of certified product is provided for the previous 12 months, ensuring sales of certified products do not exceed total purchases of certified products. The summary shall include inputs, volume purchased, in stock, processed, outputs, <u>lost</u> and sold (as applicable).
2.1.4	Incoming and outgoing documentation (supply contracts, invoices, delivery documents, etc.) must include the standard(s), <u>traceability type</u> and percentage (if less than 100% certified) when there is a change in legal ownership and/or physical possession of the certified product. The documentation must match the volumes reported in the traceability platform. This requirement does not apply to sales of finished consumer-facing products. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>
2.1.5	Approval is obtained prior to the on- and off-pack use of public-facing claims. There is evidence that any <u>Rainforest Alliance claim</u> made is valid and complies with Rainforest Alliance Certification Program Requirements.
2.1.6	There is no <u>double selling</u> of volumes. Once a volume is sold under a Rainforest Alliance Standard, conventional, another scheme or sustainability initiative, that volume is no longer available for sale. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>

2.2 Traceability in the Online Platform

2.2.1	Any activity related to the <u>certified volume</u> (such as redeeming, removing, selling, purchasing, confirming, etc.) must be recorded in the Rainforest Alliance traceability platform within two weeks after the end of the quarter in which the activity took place. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>
2.2.2	<u>Royalty</u> is paid in full without any tax deductions, according to the payment terms set forth in the License Agreement, Terms and Conditions and/or the invoice. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>
2.2.3	The Certificate Holder acting as the mandated trade partner in the traceability platform complies with the applicable traceability requirements.

2.3 Mass Balance

Applicable to Certificate Holders applying mass balance (relative to crops that permit the traceability type mass balance).

2.3.1	Volumes are only converted for processes that can occur in reality; product conversion cannot revert to a previous product. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>
2.3.2	Volumes sold as <u>mass balance</u> are 100% covered by volumes purchased as <u>certified</u> . A negative volume balance is not permitted at any time.
2.3.3	Mass balance volumes must always be accompanied by a physical <u>shipment</u> when transferred between Certificate Holders. Volume trading without a physical shipment is only allowed between sites under the same certificate.
2.3.4	Volumes sold as certified meet the minimum percentage requirements for origin information. This requirement is only applicable for cocoa mass balance products for which origin matching rules are required. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>
2.3.5	Purchase and sales documentation for volumes sold as certified must include origin information to country level for both incoming certified and non-certified volumes. This is only applicable for cocoa mass balance products for which origin matching rules are required. <i>Please see A-05-SCRL-B-CH Traceability Annex</i>

CHAPTER 3:

PREMIUM

The Rainforest Alliance aims to make sustainability and regenerative agriculture the norm in the sectors in which it operates. This requires a fundamental transformation of the supply chain's operating principles, moving to a system where sustainability and regenerative practices in agricultural production are valued and priced as material services, beyond the general cost of the commodity. This means that the investments needed to advance sustainability and regenerative agriculture practices at the origin level are borne not only by the producer but also by the market.

For the Sustainable Agriculture Standard, companies are required to pay certified farms a Premium, an additional monetary payment on top of the market price of the commodity. This is intended to reward farmers for implementing more sustainable agricultural practices.

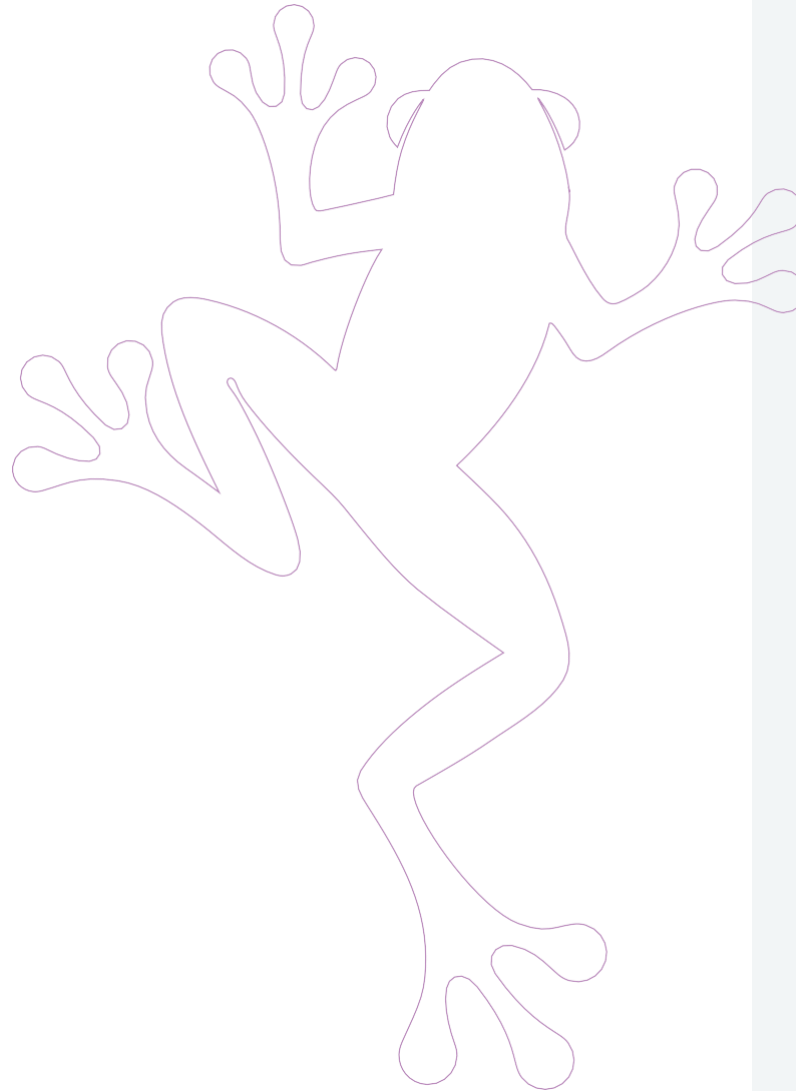
Similarly, for the Regenerative Agriculture Standard, companies are encouraged to provide additional financial incentives to farms that adopt regenerative practices. These practices not only focus on sustainability but also aim to restore and enhance the health of the ecosystem, ensuring long-term agricultural productivity and environmental benefits.

3.1 Premium

3.1.1	Payment of the <u>Premium</u> must be reported in the traceability platform. For crops with a prescribed minimum, the payment must meet at least the required minimum. <i>Please see A06-SCRL-B-CH Premium Annex</i>
3.1.2	Responsible Certificate Holders must have contracts or signed agreements specifying the amounts to be paid, and the terms and conditions of the payment by period/cycle. Premium cannot be paid in kind and must be paid in full according to the payment terms per crop specified in the Premium Annex. <i>Please see A06-SCRL-B-CH Premium Annex</i>

CHAPTER 4:

SOCIAL



The social chapter seeks to empower employees to achieve better working conditions for themselves and their families, promote equality and respect for all, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as migrants, children, youth, and women, and strengthen human and labor rights protections on certified organizations.

4.1 Social

4.1.1	Commitment Management commits to assess and address child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment by: • Coordinating the committees/persons responsible for managing grievances (see requirement 1.1.3). • Raising awareness of these four topics with management and staff at least once a year. • Informing employees in writing that child labor, forced labor, discrimination and workplace violence and harassment are not tolerated, and that management has a system in place to assess and address related cases. This information is visibly displayed at central locations at all times. <i>Please see SA-G-SD-1 Guidance Document L: Assess-and-Address</i>
4.1.2	Risk mitigation The management representative/committee includes mitigation measures in the management plan. The Certificate Holder can use mitigation measures identified in the Risk Assessment and implement corresponding measures. <i>Please see A-11-SCRL-B-CH Annex: Risk Assessment Tool</i>
4.1.3	Monitoring The management representative/committee: • Monitors risks and the implementation of risk mitigation measures. • Reports potential cases of child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment to the management and the grievance committee. • Monitors remediation activities (see 4.1.4). The intensity of the monitoring system is adjusted to the risk level and the issue. <i>Please see SA-G-SD-20 Guidance Document R: Assess-and-Address Monitoring Tool</i>
4.1.4	Remediation The management representative/committee sets out how to remediate cases of child labor, forced labor, discrimination, and workplace violence and harassment in the management plan. Confirmed cases are remediated and documented following the Rainforest Alliance Remediation Protocol. The safety and confidentiality of the victims are protected throughout the process. <i>Please see A-08-SCRL-B-CH Social Annex</i>