

Project Assignment

Fairtrade Standard for Coffee, draft proposal for standard suspension of requirement 3.1.9 Trader Reporting (October 2025)

This is a project assignment that follows the approved suspension request for the requirement. More information on these procedures can be found on the website:
https://www.fairtrade.net/content/dam/fairtrade/fairtrade-international/standards/how-we-set-standards/SOP_short_Development_Fairtrade_Standards.pdf

Rationale for and justification of need for the project:

Requirement 3.1.9 Trader Reporting applicable to traders in the Fairtrade Standard for coffee has created technical difficulties and is a duplication of efforts. The other part of the requirement, which is to report on support to SPOs is not needed since this is also covered in requirement 3.1.5 Supporting producers to prevent and mitigate deforestation. FLOCERT has also shared concrete examples of legal concerns certified customers have raised due to the inability to share information with Fairtrade International (FI) as there are no legal safeguards for data sharing between traders and FI.

Risk assessment:

1. If the requirement remains in the Standard, there will be a duplication of effort for traders and a burden on the Fairtrade system to resolve technical and auditing matters.

Mitigation: Suspend the requirement and remove it from the Standard entirely, following the decision by the SC or Director S&P.

2. Suspending the requirement indicates that efforts around deforestation prevention by traders are weakened.

Mitigation: Clear and transparent communication about the assessment of the requirement in the case of coffee, where it has been applicable for some time, explaining stakeholders' reasoning behind the suspension of the requirement that has not added any value. In addition, explain that the suspension does not undermine the commitment Fairtrade holds to the protection of forests and the prevention and mitigation of deforestation.

Project Start Event:

Draft Project Assignment will be uploaded to the FI website for comments by stakeholders

Project Start Date:

October 2025

Project End Event:

Announcement of the decision and publication of updated standard

Project End Date:

Q4 2025

Project Goal and Objectives:

Goal:

The revision of the Fairtrade Standard for Coffee is a key instrument to align the standard with the market needs and producer realities.

Objectives:

- To follow standard operating procedures to assess the approved suspension request of requirement 3.1.9 Trader Reporting;
- to request suspension and ultimately removal from the Fairtrade Standard for coffee entirely, following a decision by the Director S&P and as needed together with the SC Chair.

Connection with Theory of Change (ToC):

This project is connected to the Fairtrade Goals which are to foster sustainable livelihoods, empower small producers, make trade fair and build Fairtrade markets.

For more information on Fairtrade's ToC see this [link](#).

Project scope:

For more information on Fairtrade Standards click this [link](#).

Out of scope:

Review of other requirements in the Fairtrade Standard for coffee
Review of other Fairtrade Standards
Price and Premium review

Project timelines and information on opportunities to contribute:

Scoping: October 2025

Research: October 2025

Consultation*: October – November 2025 (two weeks)

Director S&P decision: November 2025

Publication: November 2025

* More information will be provided closer to the consultation period on our [website](#). If you are identified as key stakeholders, you will receive an invitation to participate.

Decision making process:

The final proposal for standard suspension is approved by the Director of Standards and Pricing and the Chair of the Standards Committee, as needed, in their capacities as stipulated in the Standard Operating Procedure.

Project Owner (Unit):

Alina Amador, Head of Standards

Project Managers (contact point for the project):

Ernesto Gonzalez (Project Manager Standards)
e.gonzalez@fairtrade.net

Project Team (Unit):

Fairtrade International

Colleen Anunu
(Senior Advisory for Coffee)

Project Environment (stakeholder groups not part of the project team):

- Certified traders organizations under the Fairtrade Standard for Coffee
- PNs
- NFOs
- Global Impact unit
- DSU