



FAIRTRADE  
INTERNATIONAL

# Fairtrade Fruits & Vegetables Standard Main Changes

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## Fairtrade Fruits & Vegetables Standard for Hired Labour Organisations (HLOs) and Traders

The revised Fairtrade Fruits & Vegetables Standard for Hired Labour Organisations (HLOs) and Traders is the result of a full review undertaken in 2024. The revised Fairtrade Fruits & Vegetables Standard was approved in two meetings by the Standards Committee in December 2024 and July 2025.

This document identifies the key changes made to the Standard. It 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 it is not part of the Standard.

### Key changes:

- Full review of the standards for Fresh Fruit, Fresh Vegetables, and Prepared and Preserved Fruits and Vegetables.
- Merge of the standards for Fresh Fruits, Fresh Vegetables, and Prepared and Preserved Fruits and Vegetables
- Alignment with changes in the Fairtrade Trader Standard.

### Overview of the new Fairtrade Fruits & Vegetables Standard:

This table shows the most important changes. New requirements or sections are marked as 'New'.

The Fruits & Vegetables Standard will replace the merged standards starting in 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027, becoming applicable to all organisations at that moment.

## Overview of the new Fruits & Vegetables Standard:

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

Standard section	Type of change	New Standard 2026	Comments
<b>1. General Requirements and Commitment to Fairtrade</b>			
<b>1.1 Certification</b>	New	- 1.1.1 Banana companies	The 2 years requirement allows for a certain level of business and organizational maturity to have the chance to comply with Fairtrade standards (without a need for excessive producer support), and the market related requirement covers the need for any new PO and for all POs as a whole that Fairtrade works from a cost benefit point of view i.e. without Fairtrade sales there is no additional investment available to deal with compliance costs due to FT standards.
<b>2. Social Development</b>			
<b>2.1 Management of the Fairtrade Premium</b>	Amended	- 2.1.1 Premium reporting	Simplify the requirement and enable reporting indicators adjustments to be done independently of the generic reporting requirement.
<b>3. Labour Conditions</b>			
<b>3.1 Conditions of employment</b>	Amended	- 3.1.1 Floor wages	Added clarity to the reference used to calculate the floor wage.
	Amended	- 3.1.3 Fairtrade Premium	To align the requirement with the published interpretation, note that this clarification change has been proposed. To maximize the impact of the Fairtrade Premium to help close the living wage gaps in the certified plantations, it is being proposed to distribute up to 30% of the Fairtrade Premium amongst the workers earning less than the Living Wage benchmark, until they reach the Living Wage benchmark.

Standard section	Type of change	New Standard 2026	Comments
	Amended	- 3.1.4 Wage data reporting	To enable digitalized reporting of wage data to Fairtrade International, which is of strategic importance to measure the impact of the Fairtrade Minimum Price, Fairtrade Premium and Fairtrade Living Wage Reference Price.
<b>4. Environmental Development</b>			
<b>4.1 Environmental protection</b>	Amended	- 4.1.1 Integrated weed management	To improve the environmental provision in the fruit & vegetable standard, it is proposed to extend the scope of the requirement to all the producer organisations of fruits and vegetables.
	New	- 4.1.2 Environmental risk assessment	The fruit and vegetable standards rely mostly on requirements in the generic standards to cover the environmental and climate change topics. During the research phase, stakeholders raised the concern that this should be addressed actively in this standard.
	New	- 4.1.3 Environmental action plan development	Once the organisation has conducted the risk assessment, it is important to use the data gathered to create plans that provide actionable measures to manage the risks identified.
	New	- 4.1.4 Environmental action plan implementation	As the final logical step in response to the environmental risk, the implementation step is one of the most important as it provides the actions needed to respond to the identified risk.
<b>5. Trade</b>			
<b>5.1 Traceability</b>	Amended	- 5.1.1 Traceability system	Added the FLO-ID as information that needs to be added to the packing.
<b>5.2 Contracts</b>	Amended	- 5.2.1 Fairtrade contracts for payers	To standardise the contracts for fresh fruit and fresh vegetables, and to complement the requirements as

Standard section	Type of change	New Standard 2026	Comments
			needed.
	Amended	- 5.2.3 Tripartite contracts with producers for oranges for juice	To increase transparency between the first three actors of the supply chain.
<b>5.4 Pricing and payment terms</b>	Amended	- 5.4.11 Timely payment of FMP for oranges for juices	Both existing requirements merged (FF HLO 5.4.13 and in P&P HLO 5.5.4) from the Fresh Fruit Standard and the Prepared and Preserved Fruit Standard.
<b>5.5 Sharing Risks</b>	Amended	- 5.5.1 Information to be included in a quality claim	Additional information is introduced to be provided when issuing a quality claim.
	Amended	- 5.5.3 Time to submit quality claims by ripeners	Indicated timelines, in case the ripeners receive the product directly from the port of destination.
	Amended	- 5.5.6 Charging cost of quality claim	It now includes the sorting and destruction costs.
	New	- 5.5.16 Payment terms in case of retro-certification	It now stipulates a payment timeline in cases where the buyer applies retro-certification. Extend the applicability to vegetables.
	Amended	- 5.5.17 Informing producers of retro-certification	The requirement now includes a timeline to inform the producers that the buyers have applied for retro-certification. Extend the applicability to vegetables.
	Amended	- 5.5.18 Informing the certification body of retro-certification	The requirement now includes a timeline to inform the certification body that the buyer applied for retro-certification. Extend the applicability to vegetables.
<b>5.6 Trading with integrity</b>	New	- 5.6.1 Fairtrade Contracts Conditions	The addition is to reduce the unfair practices that occur when some traders offer to buy under Fairtrade terms if the producer also sells them in conventional terms at a discount to offset the price paid in the Fairtrade transaction.

Standard section	Type of change	New Standard 2026	Comments
	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5.6.2 Fairtrade Minimum Price along the supply chain</li> </ul>	<p>This change will provide safeguards for producers and traders along the supply chain so that the price they receive is at least the minimum price, and no discounts on price are allowed.</p>
	New	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 5.6.3 Fair payment terms</li> </ul>	<p>This will provide safeguards for producers to reduce payment conditions demanded by the traders along the supply chain.</p>