

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

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Changes to the Cocoa Standard

Dear partners,

During its 119th meeting that took place on 25 September 2025 the Standards Committee decided on amendments to the standard requirements for Cocoa and subsequently its interpretation notes, related to some requirements about geolocation data and deforestation prevention reporting. The amendments are intended to clarify the required geolocation mapping area and provide more time for geolocation data collection for producers in Latin America and the Caribbean. The change in timeline applies only to Fairtrade certification requirements and related audits. It does not impact the timeline of the EU Deforestation Regulation.

The amendments are as follows, listed in order of the relevant Standard Requirement:

- 3.4.1 Protection of forests and ecosystems: change Standard Requirement to reflect
 - Change from “Your members did not cause deforestation” to “There has been no deforestation”.
- 3.4.2 Assessing and Monitoring Deforestation Risk: Change guidance of Standard Requirement to reflect
 - Change usage of phrase “farm” to “cocoa plot”.
- 3.4.5 Geolocation Data: Two changes are made to the Standard Requirement including
 - Change date of implementation to start on 1 January 2027 for Latin America and Caribbean only.
 - Change mentions of farms to plots as the unit of measurement to align wording of the current standard with the definition in the existing guidance (and specify in guidance: cocoa plot).
- 3.4.6 Sharing Geolocation Data: Change Standard Requirement to reflect
 - Change usage of phrase “farm” to “plot” (and specify in guidance: cocoa plot).
- 3.4.7 Reporting on Deforestation Prevention: Two changes are made to the Standard Requirement including
 - Change date of implementation to start on 1 January 2027 for Latin America and Caribbean only.
 - Change usage of phrase “farm” to “plot” (and specify in guidance: cocoa plot).
- 3.4.8 Trader Reporting on Deforestation Prevention: Two changes are made to the Standard Requirement including
 - Change date of implementation to start on 1 January 2027 for Latin America and Caribbean only.
 - Change usage of phrase “farm” to “plot” (and specify in guidance: cocoa plot).

The amendments to change from the phrase “farm” to “plot” (and specify in guidance: cocoa plot) in all requirements mentioned above clarify that data is required for plots under production and not farm level; and guidance was added to clarify that geolocation data availability is not a precondition for



implementation of requirements 3.4.2 Assessing and Monitoring Deforestation Risk, 3.4.3 Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Plan, and to identify actions to support producers to prevent and mitigate deforestation 3.4.4.

For details on the decision please refer to the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting available on our website here: <https://www.fairtrade.net/en/why-fairtrade/how-we-do-it/standards/how-we-set-standards.html>. The Director of Standards & Pricing decided on remaining requirements impacted by the SC decision.

Further changes and uploads to the Fairtrade International website relevant to the Cocoa Standard include:

- In the Interpretation Note, text was added for requirement 1.1.1 Entry requirement for producer organisation. The document can be found [here](#).
- In the Explanatory Note, changes were made in the terminology used for section 9 Supporting Producers with Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence. You can find the document [here](#).
- The Monitoring and Remediation System Definition was revised. This is relevant for Cocoa Standard requirement 3.3.1 Monitoring and Remediation for Child Labour and Forced Labour. You can find the document [here](#).

Fairtrade International invites interested stakeholders to contribute to the **draft proposal suspension for Cocoa Standard requirement 3.4.8 Reporting on Deforestation Prevention (applies to payers and conveyors)**. The project assignment can be found [here](#). Kindly provide any input which you may have to standards-pricing@fairtrade.net by 14 November 2025 using the form named "Standard suspension feedback form" to be found [here](#).

The revised standard is available in English/Spanish/French on our website under <https://www.fairtrade.net/en/why-fairtrade/how-we-do-it/standards/who-we-have-standards-for/standards-for-small-scale-producer-organisations/cocoa.html>.

For more information, please contact Standards and Pricing team at: standards-pricing@fairtrade.net.

Best regards,

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