



# Fairtrade Standard for Honey

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**Applies to:** Small producer organizations and traders

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For further information and standards downloads:  
[www.fairtrade.net/standards.html](http://www.fairtrade.net/standards.html)



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## Introduction

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### How to use this Standard

The Fairtrade Standard for Honey covers the requirements which are specific to honey producers and traders.

Fairtrade Honey producers must comply with both the Fairtrade Small Producer Organization Standard and the Fairtrade Honey Standard. For producers this standard complements, and should be read together with, the Fairtrade Small Producer Organization Standard.

Fairtrade Honey traders must comply with both the Fairtrade Trader Standard and Fairtrade Honey Standard. For traders this standard complements, and should be read together with, the Fairtrade Trader Standard.

In cases where this standard differs from the Fairtrade Small Producer Organization Standard or the Fairtrade Trade Standard on the same topic, the requirements presented in this standard apply.

### Product description

This standard covers the purchase and sale of honey. Honey is the sweet substance produced by honey bees from the nectar of blossoms or from secretions of or on living parts of plants, which they collect, transform, combine with specific substances, and store in honeycombs.

This standard also covers secondary products and their derivatives. A secondary product can be a by-product, a co-product or a residue produced in the country of origin. By-products of honey production are for example propolis and beeswax.

The definition of secondary products is included in the [Fairtrade Trader Standard](#). An explanatory note for secondary products and a non-exhaustive list of products fitting in the secondary products definition is available on the [Fairtrade International website](#).

### Quality guidance

Guidance on honey quality and pricing levels is available in the separate [quality guidance document](#).

### Price and Fairtrade Premium

Fairtrade Minimum Prices and Premiums for honey are listed in [the pricing database](#), which is published on the Fairtrade website. Information on the pricing levels A and B is available in the [quality guidance document](#).

There are no Fairtrade Minimum Prices defined for secondary products and their derivatives. The prices of these products are negotiated between sellers of the product and their next buyers. A default Fairtrade Premium of 15% of the negotiated price must be paid in addition.



## Chapters

The Fairtrade Honey Standard has four chapters: General Requirements, Trade, Production and Business and Development.

## Structure

In each chapter and section of the standard you will find:

- The **intent** which introduces and describes the objective and defines the scope of application of that chapter or section;
- The **requirements** which specify the rules that you must adhere to. You will be audited according to these requirements; and
- The **guidance** provided to help you to interpret the requirements. The guidance offers best practices, suggestions and examples of how to comply with the requirement. It also gives you further explanation on the requirement with the rationale and/or intention behind the requirement. You will not be audited against guidance.

## Requirements

In this standard you will find two different types of requirements:

- **Core requirements** which reflect Fairtrade principles and must be complied with. These are indicated with the term 'Core' found in the column on the left throughout the standard.
- **Voluntary Best Practices (VBP)** which refer to the additional steps that all supply chain actors can take to foster even fairer trading conditions. They serve as your reference point for achieving best practise and contribute to greater sustainability in the entire supply chain. These practices are voluntary and not required in order for you to be in compliance with the Fairtrade Honey Standard. They will be however monitored on a regular basis in order to identify those actors that go beyond minimum compliance. These are indicated with the term 'VBP' found in the column on the left throughout the standard.

## Scope

**This standard applies to all Fairtrade honey producers and all companies that buy and sell Fairtrade honey.** All operators taking ownership of Fairtrade certified products and/or handling the Price and Fairtrade Premium are audited and certified.

Different requirements apply to different companies depending on their role in the supply chain. You can find if a requirement is applicable to you in the column "applies to".

## Application

This version of the Fairtrade Honey Standard was published on 16 December 2015 and is applicable from 15 May 2016. This version supersedes all previous versions and includes new and changed requirements. New requirements are identified in this standard by the words "**NEW**".

**Voluntary Best Practices** are not mandatory for compliance with this standard, but will be checked during audits from 15 May 2016.



## Definitions

**Producer** means any entity that has been certified under the Fairtrade Standard for Small Producer Organizations. Individual producers are the members of those organizations.

For a comprehensive list of definitions see the [Fairtrade Trader Standard](#).

## Monitoring of changes

Fairtrade International may change Fairtrade standards as explained in Fairtrade International’s Standard Operating Procedures, see [www.fairtrade.net/standards/setting-the-standards.html](http://www.fairtrade.net/standards/setting-the-standards.html). Fairtrade Standard requirements can be added, deleted, or changed. If you are Fairtrade certified, you are required to check the Fairtrade International website regularly for changes to the standards.

Fairtrade certification ensures that you comply with Fairtrade Standards. Changes to Fairtrade Standards may change the requirements of Fairtrade certification. If you wish to be or are already Fairtrade certified, you are required to check the compliance criteria and certification policies on the certification body’s website regularly at [www.flo-cert.net](http://www.flo-cert.net).

## Change history

Version number	Date of publication	Changes
01.05.2011_v1.0	01.05.2011	New Standards Framework (NSF) changes: (1) reorganization of the standard into 4 chapters
16.12.2015_v1.0	16.12.2015	Full review of the standard, alignment with Trader Standard, addition of a voluntary best practice, Addition of definition section, simplification of wording, reorganization of requirements, deletion of redundancies, added or improved guidance, new standard design
16.12.2015_v1.0	22.02.2016	Quality guidance moved to separate quality guidance document (and link to document included).



# 1. General Requirements

There are no additional requirements.

# 2. Trade

There are no additional requirements.

# 3. Production

There are no additional requirements.

# 4. Business and Development

**Intent:** To ensure that Fairtrade transactions are carried out under transparent and fair conditions, in a way that lays the foundations for producer empowerment and development.

## 4.1 Timely payment

### 4.1.1 Timely payment of Premium and price by payers

<b>Applies to:</b> Fairtrade payers	
<b>Core</b>	You pay the producer (or the conveyor, if applicable) the Fairtrade price and Premium for the Fairtrade honey no later than 30 days after the receipt of the documents transferring ownership.
<b>Year 0</b>	
<b>Guidance:</b> The documents to be presented are those stipulated in the contract and customary in the honey trade.	

## 4.2 Access to finance

### 4.2.1 Pre-financing Fairtrade contracts

<b>Applies to:</b> First buyers that provide pre-finance	
<b>Core</b>	You provide at least 60% of the value of the contract as pre-finance to the producer at any time after signing the contract and at least six weeks prior to shipment.
<b>Year 0</b>	
<b>Guidance:</b> Fairtrade encourages first buyers to provide/facilitate pre-finance as soon as possible after harvest starts. Best practice is to pay 40% of the value 12 weeks prior to shipment and the remaining 20% 6 weeks prior to shipment.	



### 4.3 Sourcing information for planning

#### 4.3.1 Sourcing plans for producers

<b>Applies to:</b> Fairtrade payers and conveyors	
<b>Core</b>	Your sourcing plans cover at least 12 months, and you renew them a minimum of three months before they expire.
<b>Year 0</b>	

### 4.4 Sharing risks

#### 4.4.1 **NEW** Weather-related risks

<b>Applies to:</b> All traders	
<b>VBP</b>	You take action to support producers to mitigate weather-related risks.
<b>Year 0</b>	
<p><b>Guidance:</b> Honey production is dependent on regular weather patterns and, especially with the impacts of climate change, producers face the risk of their production being affected by irregular rainfall, drought, frosts etc.</p> <p>You are encouraged to support producers who face these risks. Ways in which you can do this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing relevant training/capacity building to producers on how they can mitigate the effects of irregular weather,</li> <li>• supporting producers to relocate their beehives,</li> <li>• sharing insurance costs (if available), or</li> <li>• sharing the risks with the producer by paying the producer a higher price or sharing the costs of any losses of harvest.</li> </ul>	



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