

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE POLICY

**Measures to address shortages of
Rainforest Alliance certified volumes
during the Certification Cycle**

Version 1.2
June 2023



**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 or contact the Rainforest Alliance Amsterdam Office, De Ruijterkade 6, 1013AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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Policy on measures to address shortages of Rainforest Alliance certified volumes during the Certification Cycle		SA-P-GA-18	V1.2	EN
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Standards and Assurance		Director of Standards and Assurance		
Replaces:				
SA-P-GA-18 Policy measures to address shortages of Rainforest Alliance certified volumes during the transition period 1.1				
Applicable to:				
Rainforest Alliance 2020 Certificate Holders who are about to complete the transition and will start the Certification Cycle				
Country/Region:				
All regions				
Crop:		Type of Certification:		
All crops		Farm certification.		

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MEASURES TO ADDRESS SHORTAGES OF RAINFOREST ALLIANCE CERTIFIED VOLUMES DURING THE CERTIFICATION CYCLE

- 1) In certain countries Certificate Holders (CHs) are delayed in completing their audits. This results in significant restrictions to available volumes of Rainforest Alliance certified commodities. In these cases, the Rainforest Alliance will consider requests to pre-authorise a percentage of the new harvest volumes to enable farm CHs to transact certified volumes while they finalize the process to obtain their certificate.
- 2) Requests for pre-authorisation of up to 50% of the estimated volume for the current harvest, with a validity of 3 months, may be made by Farm CHs who:
 - a) Are currently certified under the Rainforest Alliance 2020 certification program;
 - b) Can demonstrate that in their previous audit they did not have NCs related to traceability, use of banned pesticides, payment of premium, child labour or deforestation.
 - c) They are in the process of planning or conducting the audit at the beginning of the certification cycle.
 - d) Have completed registration and preparation of their next license for the 2020 Rainforest Alliance certification program, including:
 - i. Definition and update of Certification Scope.
 - ii. Submission of Self-assessment in the RACP.
 - iii. Selection of Certification Body (CB) with a confirmed handshake.
 - iv. Submission of the Group Member Registry (for groups).
 - v. Submission of polygon data (for individual farms).
- 3) Farm certificate holders who wish to apply for pre-authorisation of volumes under the conditions set out in clause 2 above, in order to have time to complete their audit, shall send the request to the CB with all required documentation set out in clause 2.
- 4) The CB will submit the request to Rainforest Alliance together with the CH RA ID number and required documentation via the Extension request form shared by Standards & Assurance. [Link of the extension request form](#)
- 5) The Rainforest Alliance will pre-authorise volumes on a case-by-case basis following a thorough assessment of risks.
- 6) The Rainforest Alliance will pre-authorise volumes directly in the RACP.
- 7) Pre-authorised volumes will be incorporated in the total volume approved with the certificate once this is issued. They are not additional to the annual approved volume.
- 8) Rainforest Alliance reserves the right to cancel the preauthorised volumes if after the closure of the audit the CB confirms having found NCs in high risk requirements such as Traceability, use of banned pesticides, payment of premium, child labour or deforestation.