

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE

POLICY:

Traceability and Certification Exception for Select Banana and Fresh Fruit Certificate Holders

Document SA-P-GA-34

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English

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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.

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Rainforest Alliance Policy: Traceability and Certification Exception for Select Banana and Fresh Fruit Certificate Holders	April 5, 2024	Temporary, Until further notice
Linked to		
SA-S-SD-1 Rainforest Alliance 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements SA-S-SD-2 Rainforest Alliance 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Supply Chain Requirements SA-R-GA-4 Rainforest Alliance Certification Rules SA-R-GA-5 Rainforest Alliance Auditing Rules		
Replaces		
SA-P-GA-34-V1 Rainforest Alliance Policy: Traceability and Certification Exception for Select Banana and Fresh Fruit Certificate Holders		

Applicable to
Farm and Supply Chain Certificate Holders in Banana and Fresh Fruit in all regions

Policies are binding. Policies complement and/or supersede related rules or requirements for the parties they are applicable to.

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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OVERVIEW OF KEY CHANGES

Overview of key adaptations in this document

SA-P-GA-34-V1.1 Rainforest Alliance Policy: Traceability and Certification Exception for Select Banana and Fresh Fruit Certificate Holders, published January 6, 2025 as compared to the previous version

SA-P-GA-34-V1. Rainforest Alliance Policy: Traceability and Certification Exception for Select Banana and Fresh Fruit Certificate Holders, published April 5th, 2024.

Section	Change
1.2	Section added to clarify the role of the Rainforest Alliance in reporting and evaluating transactions of Certificate Holders who sell through offshore companies.

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Certification and Traceability Exception

Select certificate holders in Banana and Fresh Fruit have been granted an exception to the Rainforest Alliance Online Traceability Platform and our Rainforest Alliance 2020 Certification Program. Details on the scope of the exception and applicable Certificate Holders are below.

1. Outline of Exception

- 1.1. Supply Chain actors that meet the definition of *offshore companies* are exempted from maintaining and reporting traceability in the Rainforest Alliance online platform. In addition, these actors are exempted from achieving Rainforest Alliance Certification.

In this context, offshore companies are defined as supply chain actors that are established in a country outside of where they do most of their business, often for tax reasons. They may legally own the certified product but are located outside of both the producer and consuming countries for that supply chain and don't physically handle or transform the product.

- 1.2. To enable offshore companies to be exempt from traceability, the Rainforest Alliance will enter transactions in the Rainforest Alliance traceability platform on behalf of certificate holders who sell through offshore companies, according to data provided by certificate holders. In terms of the audit, if there is an issue aligning the transactions that have been entered into the platform with the volumes sold by the certificate holder, the certification body can consult Rainforest Alliance for support in evaluating the transactions.

2. Implications of the Exception

- 2.1. Offshore companies are not required to be certified or perform online traceability. Therefore, online traceability reporting shall be established between the farm certificate holder and the next certified supply chain actor, e.g. importers/exporters. Farm certificate holders may report outgoing transactions to the next certified supply chain actor or use the 'mandated trade partner' functionality to allow supply chain actors to report on their behalf. Reporting shall be done as outlined in section 2.2 of the supply chain requirements by individual transactions or submitted via excel upload to the Rainforest Alliance Traceability Platform.