



Score System Guide for the Agricultural Production Standard (APS)

Version 1.0.0

Fair Trade USA

1. The APS Has Two Types of Criteria: Critical and Progress

Critical criteria: MUST be met by a specified timeframe.

- The **majority of Critical criteria must be met prior to initial certification** (Year 0).
- All remaining Critical criteria must be achieved within a specified timeframe, with **FULL compliance to ALL Critical criteria required by Year 6 at the latest.**
- Some Critical criteria must be met in a specified order in addition to a specified timeframe, before or after other related criteria have been implemented.

Progress criteria: Describe continuous improvement requirements.

- **The Certificate Holder (CH) must show a minimum level of compliance and progress over time.** Each Progress criterion is worth a specified number of Progress points, valued at 1, 3 or 5. To be in compliance with the modules that contain Progress criteria, the Certificate Holder must earn:
 - 40% of possible Progress points prior to initial certification and through Year 2 (Years 0 - 2)
 - 70% of possible Progress points Years 3 - 5
 - **FULL compliance with ALL Progress criteria by Year 6**
- **The Certificate Holder may select which Progress criteria to comply with** to reach the minimum percentage of Progress points required in modules containing Progress criteria, within the relevant timeline.
- ONLY Modules 3 (Wages, Working Conditions, and Access to Services) and 4 (Biodiversity, Ecosystem Function, and Sustainable Production) contain Progress criteria.

ALL criteria (Critical and Progress) are relevant for BOTH farms (production sites including fields and greenhouses) AND facilities, unless otherwise noted.

Timeline Overview:

	Critical Criteria	Progress Criteria		
	Year 0-6	Year 0 - 2	Year 3 - 5	Year 6
Module 1	All Apply as indicated	---	---	---
Module 2	All Apply as indicated	---	---	---
Module 3	All Apply as indicated	40% of Progress points	70% of Progress points	100% of Progress points
Module 4	All Apply as indicated	40% of Progress points	70% of Progress points	100% of Progress points
Module 5	All Apply as indicated	---	---	---
Module 6	All Apply as indicated	---	---	---



2. Calculation of Progress Points and Module Compliance:

2.1. Designation of criteria type

Based on farm and facility size, which are defined in the APS as Small (SF), Mid-sized (MF), or Large (LF), criteria under Modules 3 and 4 may be marked as:

No.	Compliance Criterion	SF	MF	LF	Intent and Clarification
3.1.1.c	All permanent workers have written contracts with clear	BP	P-3	C-Y0	Contracts must be legally binding. At a minimum, the language of the word explain.

BP (Best Practice) – are considered best practice but are not required for farms and facilities of the indicated size.

P-# (Progress criterion - Points) – Progress criterion, worth the indicated number of points for sites of the indicated size, and count towards the module's total points. The CH may choose to achieve compliance with this criterion any time prior to Y6. Once in compliance, the indicated points are counted towards the total score for that module.

C-Y# (Critical criterion - Year) – Critical for farms and facilities of the indicated size. Must be achieved by the specified audit year (Y0 must be achieved prior to certification).

2.2. Progress points

Progress points available in each module differ by farm size category. A single criterion can be weighted differently for farms of different sizes.

- To achieve compliance with each module, all farms within EACH size category must achieve the minimum number of Progress points required in the module within the specified timeline.
- Partial points for a criterion cannot be earned.** Points are only awarded for FULL compliance.

Example (table below): In Module 3, a Mid-sized Farm needs to achieve 90 points out of 128 possible (70%) by Year 3.

Points in Module 3	SF	MF	LF
Y0 – minimum points required (40%)	16	51	39
Y3 – minimum points required (70%)	28	90	68
Y6 – total points required (100%)	40	128	97



2.3. Scoring for mixed size groups

In a group with sites of different sizes, the score is calculated by grouping farms and facilities by size category;

- **The number of points each size category must earn is different**, as the total possible points within each module differ by size category.
- Progress points for a criterion are only achieved if **ALL sites within the same size category meet that criterion**.
- Points earned for compliance by Small Farms and Facilities do not count towards Progress Points for Mid-sized or Large farms in the group, and vice versa.

Example (graphic below): By Year 3, both Large Farms within the group must achieve 40% of the Progress points possible for LF, all 3 Mid-sized Farms within the group must achieve 40% of the points possible for MF, and all 4 Small Farms within the group must achieve 40% of the points possible for SF.

