



Agricultural Production Standard (APS) Transition Policy

Version 1.2.0

Fair Trade USA

info@FairTradeUSA.org

- A. Purpose:** Fair Trade USA has updated its standards that apply to agricultural production. The purpose of this document is to outline the policy for transition from our existing standards, including the Farm Workers Standard (FWS), Independent Smallholders Standard (ISS), and Small Producer Organizations (SPO) to the Agricultural Production Standard (APS). This does not affect producers certified by FLO-Cert to Fairtrade International standards.
- B. Scope:** This procedure applies to all existing Certificate Holders and all applicants for certification against Fair Trade USA standards engaged in the production of any agricultural product.
- C. Effective Date:** March 1, 2017.

1. Existing Certificate Holders

- 1.1. **All** surveillance and re-certification audits will be conducted against the full requirements of the APS **beginning May 1, 2017**, 60 calendar days after publication of the APS.
- 1.2. Normal audit cycle requirements will apply. For example, any Certificate Holders on their Year 3 audit must comply with Year 3 requirements of the APS.
- 1.3. A transition period of one year from publication of the standard, March 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018, will be allowed for all Criteria which represent "new" requirements.¹
- As part of the Non-Compliance (NC) Report and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) process, Certificate Holders must submit a plan and timeline for closing a NC against any "new" Critical requirements by the end of the transition period. No requests for extensions on "new" requirements beyond the transition period will be granted. Note that Progress points may **not** be earned through this extended CAP process for Progress criteria.²
 - The Certification Body will review the CAP and decide if the plan is sufficient to close the NC, and may request additional information.
 - Implementation of the plan will be confirmed in the next audit.

2. Non-certified Entities / New Applications

- 2.1. **All** certification audits will be against the full requirements of the APS **beginning May 1, 2017**, 60 calendar days after publication of the APS.
- 2.2. No extended CAP process will be granted for any criteria.

For clarification on this policy, please contact our Certification team. (certification@fairtradeusa.org)

¹ New requirements will be determined by Fair Trade USA based on the previous standard against which the Certificate Holder was audited.

² Progress points may still be earned for "new" criteria through the normal CAP process.



3. APS Transition Timeline Overview

