



# Aged Product Policy

Fair Trade USA

Version 1.0.0

## Introduction

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Fair Trade USA has crafted an Aged Product Policy to recognize current production of Fair Trade Certified Ingredients for products composed of aged ingredients. This policy looks to balance the needs of consumer facing brands and opinions of stakeholders, while maintaining transparency with consumers and bringing the positive impacts of Fair Trade Certification to farmers and workers today.

Any clients interested in more information on certifying aged products should discuss with their brand account manager, and consult Fair Trade USA Certification staff at [certification@fairtradeusa.org](mailto:certification@fairtradeusa.org).

## Purpose

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Fair Trade USA's Aged Product Policy applies to agricultural products that are intentionally aged before being packaged and sold to consumers, such that the ingredients in the product were not produced under Fair Trade terms although current day production of ingredients is Fair Trade Certified.

## Scope and Applicability

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This policy applies to products containing agricultural ingredients which have been processed and then intentionally aged for more than 1 year, where the labelled product contains ingredients from a farm(s) that is currently Fair Trade Certified but which were sourced prior to the farm achieving Fair Trade Certification. Aged product may be blended with product aged less than a year as long as the agricultural ingredients are sourced from a farm(s) that is currently Fair Trade Certified.

Once the product contains ingredients that were sourced after initial certification of the supplying farm(s), the aged product Label will no longer be used and the product will transition to the requirements in the Fair Trade USA Label and Language Use Guide in consultation with Fair Trade USA staff.

## Terms and Definitions

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**Aged product:** Refers to products which are intentionally aged for the purpose of changing the character or flavor of the product, such as spirits and wine.

**Aged product label:** The Fair Trade USA label used to denote a product which contains ingredients from a farm(s) that is currently Fair Trade Certified but which were sourced prior to the farm achieving Fair Trade Certification.



# 1. Standards Requirements

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The Fair Trade USA standards which apply to producers and traders require that product held in stock for more than one year prior to certification cannot be sold as Fair Trade. Thus, to sell intentionally aged products, special rules and interpretations are required in relation to a subset of Fair Trade USA's Compliance Criteria. Aside from the exceptions and special rules outlined in this Policy, producers and traders must be in compliance with all relevant Fair Trade USA standards and certification requirements.

## 1.1. Producer Standards

To be eligible for product to be aged, the source material must be certified under Fair Trade USA's Agricultural Production Standard (APS), and producers must comply with all requirements of the APS. The APS requires that product may not be sold as Fair Trade if it has been held in stock for more than one year prior to initial certification (Criterion 5.3.5.a). This applies to product held in stock by the Certificate Holder and individual farms and facilities included in the scope of the Certificate and remains applicable for aged products. The one year rule applies for all product forms up until the point where it is in the form where it will be intentionally aged.

If the Certificate Holder processes the product before it is sold on, they must also be in compliance with Criterion 5.1.3.d related to recordkeeping about processing losses and yields, as this data is needed to calculate the volume of packaged aged product that can be produced from the original agricultural product from the farm.

## 1.2. Trade Standard

Fair Trade USA's Trade Standard applies to buyers and traders of Fair Trade products. Several criteria in this Standard require special interpretation for aged products.


Criteria TR-PT 4.1 and 4.2 require that traders of cocoa, sugar, tea, and fruit juice who do not choose to comply with physical traceability requirements ensure that volumes sold as Fair Trade are equivalent to volumes bought as Fair Trade in quantity and quality. For aged products, this criterion is applicable to all aged products, even in cases where currently certified agricultural product is physically traceable to the facility where product is being produced and aged. For aged products, volume of aged product sold must be equivalent to the volume of agricultural product purchased as Fair Trade, taking into account processing losses and yields. Data to calculate this equivalence shall be collected from all relevant parts of the supply chain and provided to Fair Trade USA and auditors as part of the audit process.

Systemic retro-certification, in which a buyer consistently purchases product on non-Fair Trade terms and at a later date converts it into a Fair Trade product, is not allowed for aged products. This means Criteria TR-CT 8.1 – 8.8 do not apply.



## 2. Labeling Rules

Aged products must comply with the label requirements below in addition to relevant requirements outlined in Fair Trade USA's Label and Language Use Guide, available on the Fair Trade USA website. Any use of the Fair Trade USA label and language describing the Fair Trade certification of the product, including language on the partner's website, must be approved by Fair Trade USA before use.

Fair Trade Label	Fair Trade Label Requirements	On Pack Disclosure Statement Requirement	Web Page Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Label may be placed on front or back of pack</li> <li>Label must include the "Aged Product" banner</li> <li>Label must be accompanied by language disclosure on pack (location may vary)</li> <li>For any individual Fair Trade Certified ingredient used in the product, 100% of that particular ingredient must be Fair Trade Certified</li> </ul>	<p>The Fair Trade Label or the words Fair Trade on pack, must be accompanied by a disclosure statement and a web link, to be approved by Fair Trade USA</p> <p>Sample Disclosure Statement:</p> <p>"We are proud to have achieved Fair Trade Certification of our ingredients as of 2017. Since the ingredients in this bottle have been aged to perfection for X years, they were not produced under Fair Trade Certification. To learn more about our work with Fair Trade, please visit <a href="http://www.X.com">www.X.com</a>"</p>	<p>The following information must be included in associated web pages owned and maintained by the partner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reason for obtaining Fair Trade Certification</li> <li>Date Certification obtained</li> <li>Overview of Fair Trade</li> <li>Which ingredient is certified today</li> <li>Clear statement that ingredients certified today are not yet in the bottles on shelf</li> </ul>

