

Beyond the Bean: Redefining Coffee Quality

Quick Reference Guide
to Standards for
Sustainable Production Systems

Second Edition

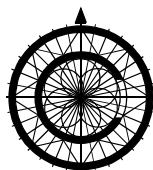


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Nearly 25 million farmers in 50 countries around the world depend on coffee for a significant part of their livelihoods. In countries with developing economies, international coffee trade generates critical export earnings and tax revenue. However, despite the global importance of coffee production, coffee prices have reached historic lows and coffee farmers have few, if any, legal alternatives to coffee production. In addition to its economic value, coffee cultivation serves an increasingly important ecological purpose by buffering native ecosystems and habitat and conserving the biodiversity they harbor. The symbiotic relationships between producer prosperity, vulnerable landscapes, and political stability are under severe strain as declining coffee prices impact struggling farmers.

Brazil, Colombia, and Vietnam now produce more than 60 percent of the world's coffee. Other countries are fighting for niches and marketing strategies that are increasingly tied to complex certification and labeling systems. While cupping quality remains the undisputed standard by which coffee is priced, other "values" or criteria related to fair producer pricing, land and water conservation, and food safety practices are becoming increasingly important in the marketplace. The promise of improved market access and price premiums for high-quality and differentiated coffees makes these market niches attractive and competitive.

The numerous standards, codes of conduct, and sustainability criteria that have proliferated in the last decade are designed to distinguish sources of consistent quality and those that demonstrate better land stewardship, fair labor practices, and reduced or zero agrochemical use. These certification systems are more easily applied in large estate situations. Implementing value chain standards and certification in smallholder systems is proving much more problematic.

Chemonics International works to improve rural livelihoods and resource conservation in more than 100 countries by working with agribusinesses and natural resource stewards. This is the second in a series of guides dedicated to improving access to sustainability standards by increasing awareness and dialogue between producers, buyers, and other decision makers. The guide is designed as a primer and reference for additional inquiry. Comments and recommendations are both warmly solicited and appreciated.

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Definitions

The following terms are defined for easier use of this reference guide. They are generalized to be appropriate for all the standards presented.

Accreditation

Formal recognition to a certifying body or person to certify to a specific standard.

Accreditation Body

Authoritative body for a specific standard that gives formal recognition to a certifying body or person to certify to the standard.

Audit or Assessment

Formal check by a Certifying Body to a specific standard.

Certification

Written assurance from Certifying Body of conformance to specific standard.

Certifying Body

Organization given formal recognition to assess conformance to a specific standard.

Conformance or Compliance (terms often used interchangeably)

Meeting the required criteria of a given standard.

Cupping or Cupping Process

A formal tasting of coffee following industry protocol – such as SCAA guidelines – to determine the flavor and level of defects of coffee.

Dirty Dozen

A list of pesticides whose use has been banned or restricted primarily due to the impact on human or environmental health.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM is an approach to pest management that relies on comprehensive information of the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical and ecological means.

Internal Audit or Self-Assessment

Informal check conducted by a non-accredited body to verify compliance to a specific standard.

Definitions continued

Parallel Production

Any production where the same unit is growing, breeding, handling, or processing the same products in both a certified organic system and a non-certified or non-organic system. A situation with “organic” and “in conversion” production of the same product is also parallel production. Parallel production is a special instance of split production.

Premium

A sum over and above a regular price paid chiefly as an inducement or incentive to conform to a given standard.

Requirement

Specific and measurable criteria used to determine conformance to a standard.

Split Production

Where only part of the farm or processing unit is certified as organic. The remainder of the property can be (a) non-organic, (b) in conversion, or (c) organic but not certified.

WHO Class 1a or 1b Pesticides

The World Health Organization’s Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard designates the hazard level of pesticides. Pesticides in class 1a are considered Extremely Hazardous and those in class 1b are considered Highly Hazardous. A link to this list is in the Resources section.

The Utz Kapeh standard was developed in 2000 by Ahold Coffee Company in coordination with a group of Guatemalan grower-exporters. The standard provides guidelines for food safety, environmentally and socially appropriate growing practices, and quality processing with a design that allows for feasible implementation and continual improvement. The Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct is based on the EUREPGAP Protocol, drawing on the specific conditions of coffee production. As such, we have not included a separate section on EUREPGAP in this guide. The EUREPGAP standard was developed by representatives from major European food retailers in response to the food scares in Europe and a public desire to know the safety and origin of food purchased for European consumption.

Standard Purpose

Food safety, protection of workers and the environment, record keeping, and traceability.

Requirement Categories

Traceability and documentation; record keeping; varieties and rootstocks; site history/management; soil and substrate management; fertilizer use; irrigation/fertigation; crop protection; harvesting; post-harvest product handling; waste and pollution management/recycling and reuse; worker health, safety, and welfare; and environment and conservation.

Accreditation Body

Euro-retailer Produce Working Group (EUREP).

Auditing System

Coffee producers certified by the Utz Kapeh Foundation and third-party certification.

Labeling

Utz Kapeh Certified Responsible Coffee logo.

Premium

Market based.

Resources

<http://www.utzkapeh.org>

<http://www.eurep.org>

Part I

Major Standards and Corporate Guidelines

This section provides an overview of five major standards and one set of corporate codes for sustainable coffee production. Several of the standards also include provisions for sustainable coffee processing. It is important to note that most of the standards presented here, as well as those beyond the scope of this guide, are currently being applied in estate or cooperative systems and do not necessarily address smallholder production units. Regardless, this selection offers the reader a cross section of the kinds of standards and corporate codes currently at work in the marketplace. While we are not promoting these particular standards, nor espouse any one specifically, familiarizing oneself with a variety of certification systems will help producers and industry players understand the production and processing criteria that are increasingly in demand in the marketplace. Such criteria extend far beyond what has been traditionally described as cupping quality into areas of social responsibility, environment and resource conservation, as well as more specific criteria such as organic production. It is the opinion of the authors that these broad criteria will increasingly merge into what will become the new definition of coffee "quality."

Neumann Kaffee Gruppe (NKG)

Sustainability Standards

The NKG Standards for Sustainable Coffee Production were developed in collaboration with GTZ (German Agency for Technical Development Cooperation) and CERTIMEX, an independent and accredited Mexican certification agency. The standards are based on a two-pronged integrated management approach that conserves natural resources and creates a respectful and supportive environment for the workers of the coffee industry. The standards are supplemented by the NKG Sustainability Index, which was designed as a monitoring tool for the implementation of standards. The index creates an incentive based scoring system whereby improvements made against the standards' criteria are rewarded with points which elevate a farm's relative market position. While the standards were developed on a NKG farm in Mexico, they were designed to be feasibly implemented by all NKG coffee farms around the globe.

Standard Purpose

Promotes economic, social, and environmental sustainability and serves as a tool for sourcing sustainable coffee for the mainstream coffee industry.

Requirement Categories

Shade and biodiversity; water use, conservation and protection; management of waste; crop byproducts; soil; integrated management and energy use; child labor and education for farm children; salaries; health; training and work safety; and farm worker living conditions.

Accreditation Body

None.

Auditing System

Regular internal audits conducted by independent auditors that measure progress against the farm management system and standard criteria.

Labeling

None.

Premium

Market-based price premiums proportionate to progress in standard implementation.

Resources

<http://www.nkgtropical.com/home>

Rainforest Alliance

The Rainforest Alliance is the Secretariat for the Sustainable Action Network (SAN), a coalition of Latin American conservation organizations dedicated to the principles of sustainable agriculture. Together, Rainforest Alliance and SAN seek to impact tropical agriculture, producer communities, and the ecosystems that surround them through the development of certification standards that promote the needs of producer communities in tandem with the ideals of conservation. Producer groups who meet the SAN standards may be certified and use Rainforest Alliance's label in marketing their products. As evidence of the importance of the label and certification program, Kraft Foods has partnered with Rainforest Alliance and committed to purchasing an increasing amount of Rainforest Alliance certified coffee over a number of years. In the first year of the commitment, Kraft has agreed to purchase more than 5 million pounds of certified coffee. The Rainforest Alliance certifies to several SAN standards and this guide discusses the Generic Coffee Standards. It is important to note, that at present, Rainforest Alliance only certifies coffee farms in Central America, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Brazil.

Standard Purpose

Agriculture that is environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically viable.

Requirement Categories

Ecosystem conservation; forest protection; fire prevention; wildlife conservation; fair treatment/good conditions for workers; health and safety; housing and basic services; community relations; integrated crop management; waste management; water resource conservation; soil conservation; and planning and monitoring.

Accreditation Body

Rainforest Alliance and SAN develop auditor curriculum, train and verify auditors. Nepenthes evaluates the accreditation process.

Auditing System

Third-party auditing according to the standard's criteria. Standard applies to farms, not commodities.

Labeling

Rainforest Alliance certified.

Premium

Market based.

Resources

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org>

Starbucks CAFÉ Practices Program

The Starbucks CAFÉ Practices Program, developed in coordination with Scientific Certification Systems, an independent third party evaluation and certification firm, evaluates the sustainable production of cherry and green coffee according to four categories: Product Quality, Economic Accountability, Social Responsibility, and Environmental Leadership. The first two categories are prerequisites to participation in the program and ensure basic coffee quality and financial transparency, equity, and viability of the coffee supply chain. The program was designed to establish quality criteria for growers, processors, and vendors to encourage cooperation and shared responsibility throughout the supply chain to create a high quality, sustainable end product. Applicants are evaluated through a point system and are awarded Preferred Supplier status if they achieve a minimum of 60 percent of possible points in each applicable criteria area and an overall score of 60 percent of possible points. Applicants are awarded Strategic Supplier status if they achieve a minimum of 60 percent of possible points in each applicable criteria area and an overall score of 80 percent of possible points.

Standard Purpose

Sustainable, high quality coffee produced in an environment of economic accountability, social responsibility, and environmental leadership.

Requirement Categories

General quality conditions; economic incentives for sustainability; financial viability; hiring practices and employment policies; worker conditions; protecting water resources; protecting soil resources; conserving biological diversity; environmental management and monitoring; water conservation; waste management; energy consumption.

Accreditation Body

Scientific Certification Systems.

Auditing System

Third-party auditing according to the standard's criteria.

Labeling

No label, as this is an internal purchasing program.

Premium

Preferred pricing and contract terms extended to Preferred Suppliers. Strategic Suppliers also receive a \$.05/pound premium on first year's crop.

Resources

<http://www.scscertified.com/starbucks>

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) represents a worldwide network of organic practitioners that seeks to establish universally accepted standards for organic production and processing. The IFOAM Basic Standards for Organic Production and Processing is not a certifiable standard in and of itself. Rather, it serves as a framework for national and international certification bodies and standard-setting organizations. As such, understanding the IFOAM Basic Standard serves as a key to understanding the basic elements of organic standards over the world. It is important to note that while IFOAM has established standards for a variety of products, the standards laid out in this text correspond to the IFOAM Basic Standards as they apply to agricultural products, specifically perennial crops, processing, and handling.

Standard Purpose

Chemical-free agricultural production, processing, and handling in an environment of social justice.

Requirement Categories

Ecosystem management (water, soil, biodiversity); genetically modified materials; pesticides; fertilizers; social justice; transport; and processing.

Accreditation Body

International Organic Accreditation Services, Inc. (IOAS).

Auditing System

Third-party, IOAS-accredited certifying bodies.

Labeling

Varies by accredited certifying body.

Premium

Market based.

Resources

<http://www.ifoam.org>

<http://www.ifoam.org/standard/norms/cover.html>

<http://www.ioas.org>

Fairtrade

Fairtrade Labeling Organizations (FLO) International exists to improve the position of poor, small-scale, and marginalized producers in the developing world by influencing the conditions of trade in their favor. The FLO accredited national Fairtrade labels represent a standard that incorporates internationally recognized conventions such as those of the International Labor Organization (ILO), with principles of economic development and national laws governing labor rights and environmental protection.

Standard Purpose

Primary: Social and economic development for small farmers, and social responsibility.

Secondary: Environmental protection.

Requirement Categories

Social development; economic development; environmental development; and labor conditions.

Accreditation Body

FLO International.

Auditing System

FLO certification is run by an autonomous unit within FLO International and independent third parties.

Labeling

National labeling systems vary by participating countries.

Premium

Minimum price of \$1.26/lb.

Resources

<http://www.Fairtrade.net/index.htm>

<http://www.Fairtrade.net/sites/standards/set.htm>

Part II

Common Criteria

While all the standards presented in this guide have common criteria, the language used to describe those criteria can be as varied as the standards themselves. In an effort to compare the standards, we have identified and titled the common criteria that transcend them. This section provides a brief description of the common criteria and presents a summary of criterion specifications for each standard in the language of that standard. Additional criteria that do not fall under the common criteria are presented at the end of this section. It should be noted that many of the common criteria are geared toward production on estates or in cooperatives and may not necessarily apply to smallholder and small outgrower situations.

Documentation and Management Systems

This criterion refers to an internal system of tracking adherence to the guidelines set by a particular standard. Tracking may be limited to the farm or throughout the entire value chain. The specific type of documentation required and the minimum number of years those documents must be kept vary by standard.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Traceability: Coffee must be traceable to the registered post-harvest processing unit, cooperative, certified group, or farm where produced.

Record Keeping and Documentation: Farm records, including chemical applications, use of GMO cultivars notifications, and documentation of compliance with national land use and conservation laws must be kept for a minimum of two years or more as local laws dictate. Yearly internal audits are performed.

Crop Protection: Records must be maintained that detail agrochemicals used, when, where, why, how much, how applied, when is first harvestable date for that field, and when was the re-entry time of people back into the sprayed area.

Complaint System: A complaint system must be in place that is available to customers and documents and responds to complaints. Farms keep documented lot samples to reference in the instance of a complaint.

Internal Audit System: An annual internal audit is conducted, documented, and measures are taken to ensure compliance with the Utz Kapeh code.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Sustainability Management System: Farms must create a functioning sustainability management system with clearly defined responsibilities.

Health: Employer shall maintain medical records for all individuals on the farm.

Documentation and Management Systems

Rainforest Alliance

Planning and Monitoring: A plan must demonstrate short- and long-term social and environmental goals of the farm with a prior evaluation of potential impacts of changes. A monitoring system must be in place to periodically evaluate the social and environmental impacts, demonstrate standard compliance, and recommend management plan changes if need be. Certified coffee must be kept segregated from non-certified coffee and tracked through system that documents certified coffee as it moves through the chain of custody.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Economic Incentives for Sustainability: Suppliers must demonstrate economic transparency through documentation that identifies all processors and farmers in supply chain, all payments and/or sales. Suppliers must also document equity of financial reward through third party financial audits. Farmer and processor payments must also demonstrate that the applicant does not maximize personal profit at the expense of fair payment to other members of the supply chain.

Financial Viability: Supplier provides financial statements or credit references for the prior two years. This is a required criterion.

Hiring Practices and Employment Policies: Employees' earning records must be kept according to accepted accounting practices and be available to employees.

Environmental Management and Monitoring: Farm manager must monitor insect and disease problems, maintain a register of chemicals used on the farm, and calculate and try to reduce baseline weighted toxicity index score. Farm manager must also develop and implement an annual work plan and monitoring program that will assess farm's progress with Preferred Supplier Program, detail actions for the following year, and track the farm's progress.

Water Conservation: Quantity of water used for processing and quantity of wastewater discharged shall be tracked and recorded. Wastewater discharge points shall be documented with typical wastewater characteristics and type of receiving environment. Wastewater management plan shall include information on generation operations, wastewater profile, and treatment processes.

Documentation and Management Systems

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program continued

Energy Consumption: Records must demonstrate that all onsite energy production operations are operated in accordance with local permitting requirements and that local generators meet maximum practicable emission standards.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Split Production and Parallel Production: Organic crop production and conventional crop production may only take place simultaneously if the clear and continuous separation is verifiable.

Processing and Handling (includes Pest and Disease Control): Organic and non-organic products should not be commingled. Organic products must be labeled as such and stored and transported away from contact with conventional products. Handlers and processors shall take precaution to avoid contaminating organic products with pollutants, including residues on equipment and facilities.

Fairtrade

Does not include language on documentation and management systems.

Health and Safety

This broad criterion refers to suppliers providing a healthy and safe working environment and minimizing the causes of hazards inherent in coffee production. Elements included in this criterion include prevention of accidents through limited exposure to hazardous activities, training in the safe use of farm equipment, access to first aid and medical services, and provision of hygienic facilities and potable water.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Worker Health and Safety: Work-related health and safety risks must be evaluated and appropriate actions must be taken to avoid risks. Workers must receive proper training on operating equipment. Farm must have first aid boxes on site and an emergency/accident procedure displayed and understandable to the workforce. There must also be someone trained in first aid present on the farm at all times. Farms must have adequate pest control measures in living areas, sanitary facilities, and waste disposal systems.

Worker Welfare: Workers must have access to basic or emergency health care and potable water.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Health: Employees and families shall be members of national health insurance in accordance with national law. Farm shall take actions to prevent work related accidents, promote health campaigns, and guarantee access to health services. Farm shall provide hygienic bathrooms and potable water for all workers.

Rainforest Alliance

Health and Safety: All workers shall enjoy basic services and working conditions that are safe and clean and receive proper training in the use of farm equipment. Workers in potentially hazardous jobs should have access to medical checkups.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Worker Conditions: Employer has transportation/care plan for emergencies, sufficient onsite first aid kits, and safety training for farm equipment.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Does not include language on health and safety.

Fairtrade

Occupational Health and Safety: Farm shall minimize workplace hazards and prevent accidents and injury per ILO convention 155.

Labor Conditions

This criterion refers to internationally recognized basic worker rights outlined by the ILO and echoed by national and local labor laws. This criterion covers discrimination, fair wages, child labor, freedom of association and collective bargaining, as well as access to basic services such as housing and education.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Worker Welfare: Farms must have a designate responsible for worker welfare issues and competent in national and local welfare laws. Wages must comply with local and national regulations. Farms must comply with local, national, and ILO conventions on minimum worker age, hours, forced labor, discrimination, equality, freedom of association and expression, and collective bargaining. Farm children under 15 years of age must have access to education. Farm quarters must be habitable with all basic services available, including potable water and latrines.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Labor Conditions and Working Hours: A safe and respectful work environment will be promoted that does not discriminate, use forced labor, allow physical or verbal abuses, or restrict social practices of its workers. Work hours, days of rest, overtime, and paid leave shall follow national and international standards.

Women in the Workplace: Women shall have equal rights in the workplace.

Training: All farm workers shall receive basic job training, training on health and hygiene, training on the proper use and application of agrochemicals, and training in environmental protection.

Freedom of Association: Workers may freely join organizations.

Education: School-age children shall be guaranteed access to basic education.

Wages: Monetary remuneration in accordance with tasks and skills and that meet or exceed minimum local and national standards is guaranteed. No deductions in wages are permitted for disciplinary purposes.

Child Labor: Children living on the farm under the age of 14 shall be carefully monitored to ensure access to schooling and protection from forced or long work hours or dangerous working conditions. No one under the age of 18 shall be exposed to hazardous, unsafe, or unhealthy situations on or off the farm.

Day Laborers and Seasonal Workers: Day or seasonal laborers shall benefit from access to medical treatment, nutrition, accommodations, sanitary facilities, potable water, education for children, basic training, transportation, and wages that meet local and national law.

Labor Conditions

Rainforest Alliance

Fair Treatment/Good Conditions for Workers: Employment policies must comply with national laws and international conventions and shall improve the standard of living of workers and families. Employment practices shall be free from discrimination, provide equal or greater salary than the legal minimum, enforce child labor laws, and prohibit any form of forced labor. The right to organize and negotiate shall be protected in accordance with international conventions. Employees shall be informed of any management changes and their potential impacts.

Housing and Basic Services: All workers residing on farm shall have access to basic services such as education, medical care, transportation, dignified housing, and recreational facilities.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Hiring Practices and Employment Policies: Wages must be paid in legal tender, meet or exceed the greater of local/national standards or local industry standards, and must represent equal pay for equal work. Trainees shall not receive less than the greater of minimum wage or local standard wage.

Employees' earning records must be kept according to accepted accounting practices and be available to employees. Financial disciplinary penalties must not be imposed upon workers, weekly labor hours must not surpass applicable laws, overtime work shall be properly compensated, and employees must be informed at time of hire if mandatory overtime is a condition of employment.

All full, part time and seasonal workers must have access to potable water, housing with lighting, heat and ventilation, sanitary facilities, and first aid kits and education programs. Workers' right to organize and negotiate in accordance with local laws and international conventions is acknowledged by management. Workers must be allowed the equivalent to at least one day off in seven and full time employees have an employer-paid sick leave program.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program continued

No laborers under the age of 14 are contracted (exceptions apply for family labor), compulsory education requirements shall prevail during school hours for children 15 years of age and over, and suppliers must observe all legal requirements for the work of authorized minors. Employer shall follow non-discriminatory hiring and employment policies that meet ILO convention 100 and 111 and have an enforced policy prohibiting use of slave, bonded, indentured, or involuntary convict labor. Workers are not required to surrender any original personal documentation or pay deposits as a condition of employment.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Social Justice: Employers must implement a policy on social justice that conforms to international conventions including the prohibition of forced labor, freedom of association and collective bargaining, freedom from discrimination, and rights of employed children to educational opportunities. Clear violations of basic human rights or social injustices in production prohibits labeling of product as organic.

Fairtrade

Forced Labor and Child Labor: Forced or bonded labor must not occur. Child labor may only be used if it does not jeopardize schooling. No one under 18 years of age may conduct work that may jeopardize their health, safety, or morality. Spouses have the right to off-farm labor. Company or farm should work towards elimination of any labor by children under 15 years of age.

Conditions of Employment: Workers must have freedom of association and collective bargaining rights. Wages must meet or exceed national laws on minimum wages or regional average.

Social Development: Organization must have a democratic structure and transparent administration that enables an effective control by the members and its elected board over the management. Participation is open to all without discrimination, as per the guidelines of the ILO convention.

This criterion refers to the moderated use and handling of agrochemicals and organic applications on the farm, and in some cases, throughout the supply chain. The emphasis is commonly a preference for integrated pest management (IPM), which strives to reduce chemical applications in favor of organic and systemic controls. It includes provisions for safe handling, application, and storage of agrochemicals to reduce contamination. This criterion also deals with the prohibited use of any chemicals banned or nationally or internationally.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Fertilizer Uses: Any application (organic or chemical) must be examined for appropriateness of maintaining soil and plant health and shall be documented. Workers must be trained in the appropriate application of any soil amendments and equipment must be kept in good condition for accurate fertilizer delivery. Inorganic fertilizers shall be clearly marked and listed on a stock inventory, stored separately from crop protection products, and stored its own dry, covered area to reduce contamination of waterways and stored coffee. Organic fertilizers shall be stored as to reduce contamination of waterways. Human wastes shall not be used as fertilizers.

Crop Protection: Farmers should employ IPM methods to control pests to reduce the need for chemical application. Agrochemicals shall not be used within 5 meters of any permanent waterway and farm workers shall be so instructed with training and posted signs. Farmers should only use agrochemicals that are intended for use on their particular crop. Farmers may not use any chemicals banned in the US and European Union on crops destined for those markets. Records must be maintained that detail agrochemicals used, when, where, why, how much, how applied, when is first harvestable date for that field, and when was the re-entry time of people back into the sprayed area. Workers must be trained in the appropriate application of agrochemicals, have suitable measuring equipment and protective gear per application directions, and equipment must be kept in good condition and to code for accurate chemical delivery. Agrochemicals shall be stored according to directions in a secure area that reduces potential for contamination of workers and environment. Unused agrochemicals and empty containers must be disposed of according to labels and local regulations.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Integrated Handling and Use of Agricultural Inputs: Agrochemicals shall only be used in a precise manner, utilizing chemicals of lowest toxicity, and prohibiting use of agrochemicals that are nationally or internationally banned. Measures shall be taken to reduce health and safety risks to workers who apply agrochemicals and they shall be given proper equipment and training on proper application.

Chemical Use and Handling

Rainforest Alliance

Integrated Crop Management: An IPM system shall be employed to manage and continually reduce the use of agrochemicals on the farm in favor of natural controls. Agrochemicals used on farm must be approved by national laws and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Use of nationally or internationally banned chemicals is prohibited. Workers shall receive proper training on application, transport, and containment agrochemicals in the instance of a spill. Children shall not perform application tasks. Agrochemicals supplies must be kept to a minimum, have strict inventory practices, and be stored in a designated location that minimizes risk of contamination. The farm shall make a showering area for workers who apply chemicals and a separate area for the cleaning of equipment.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Worker Conditions: Protective gear shall be provided by employer at no cost to employee and employees shall be required to wear gear as applicable. Protocols prohibit the use or handling of agrochemicals by youth and/or pregnant women.

Environmental Management and Monitoring: Pesticide use is controlled using spot spraying method and farm managers should calculate and try to reduce baseline weighted toxicity index score. Use of WHO class 1a or 1b chemicals is prohibited and pesticides used must be contained in well-ventilated, secure area.

Protecting Water Resources: Synthetic fertilizer use should be minimized in concentration and frequency.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Pest, Disease, Weed, and Growth Management: An organic pest, weed, and disease management system must be demonstrated to be effective under normal conditions. Locally prepared or formulated products may be utilized when the normal maintenance system is not sufficient only if prepared from local plant, animal, or microorganisms, or if approved by the standard-setting organization.

Fairtrade

Environmental Protection: Follow international legislation on use of pesticides, handling practices, and waste management. Pesticides in WHO class 1a and 1b and Pesticide Action Network's "Dirty Dozen" may not be used. Must work towards the adoption of an integrated crop management system to reduce use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Soil Conservation

This criterion addresses the management of soil health and fertility primarily through organic means such as green manures, mulching, nutrient recycling, and erosion control. While organic means of maintaining soil health do dominate the focus of this criteria, provisions for chemical soil amendments are also included, as are provisions on the minimization of soil salinization and prohibition of burning as a land preparation technique.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Soil and Substrate Management: Cultivation techniques must reduce erosion.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Soil Conservation: Improve soil fertility, prevent erosion, and use agrochemicals responsibly to protect soil health.

Rainforest Alliance

Soil Conservation: A management plan must be implemented to reduce erosion and increase soil health and fertility. New farms must study the suitability of crops according to soil classification.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Protecting Soil Resources: Farm managers demonstrate knowledge of importance of soil health, encourage nutrient cycling through maintenance of humus layer, monitor farm areas with erosion risk, and mitigate risk with soil conservation practices.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Soil and Water Conservation: Prevent erosion. Limit burning of vegetation. Soil fertility should be maintained through natural amendments and nutrient recycling. Prevent/remedy soil and water salinization.

Soil Conservation

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard continued

Soil Fertility and Fertilization: Soil fertility shall be maintained or increased using a system based in nutrient recycling and soil amendments using materials of microbial plant or animal origins. All soil amendments must be approved by the standard-setting organization and shall be applied in a way that protects soil, water, and biodiversity. Naturally occurring mineral fertilizers may be applied only if they are a part of a larger amendment program that includes other organic fertilization methods, such as green manures. Human manures are prohibited for use on crops for human consumption.

Diversity in Crop Production: For non-rotatable perennial crops, certifying body will set minimum standards for floor covers and/or refuge plantings to manage pests and diseases and maintain soil health.

Fairtrade

Environmental Protection: Follow international legislation on protection of natural resources/ecosystems, and erosion. Majority of producers in farm system/cooperative must grow coffee under tree shade.

Waste Management

This criterion focuses on waste management systems that employ the three "Rs": Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Recycling of coffee processing byproducts back into the system is a common element of this criterion, as is the need for sanitary, non-burning methods for the disposal of non-reusable wastes.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Waste and Pollution Management, Recycling and Reuse: Coffee byproducts must be reused as fertilizers, mulch, or energy source. Parchment may not be burned as waste. Farm must employ a waste management plan to avoid or reduce waste and encourage proper disposal of non-reusable wastes other than burning.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Integrated Waste and Crop Byproduct Management: Measures shall be taken to reduce overall waste on farm and minimize environmental impacts of coffee byproducts through reduction, reuse, and recycling. Appropriate facilities for the treatment of human wastes shall be constructed. Inorganic, non-recyclable wastes shall be disposed of properly without burning.

Rainforest Alliance

Waste Management: A management system shall be employed to reduce the production of wastes, increase reuse and recycling where possible, and provide sanitary disposal of residual wastes.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Waste Management: Wastes shall be stored on site in a manner that protects facility operations and environment; organic wastes shall be composted and parchment shall be reused for fuel or other purpose, and non-organic wastes shall be recycled or disposed of offsite in designated facilities.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Avoiding Contamination: Use of synthetic materials such as netting and barriers shall be limited to those based of polyethylene or polypropylene and shall not be burned on farmland after use.

Fairtrade

Environmental Protection: Follow international legislation on use of pesticides, handling practices, and waste management.

Water Conservation

This criterion addresses the sustainable use of water primarily through the minimized use in coffee processing, recycling filtered water back into the processing system, maintaining vegetative waterway buffer zones, and controlling the use and storage of potential contaminants. The criterion also includes provisions for ensuring water sources are sustainable and pure.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Irrigation and Fertigation: Untreated sewage water may not be used for irrigation/fertigation. Potential for irrigation/fertigation water contamination must be evaluated annually and records must demonstrate actions taken. Irrigation water must be extracted only from sustainable sources.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Water Use, Conservation, and Protection: Processing should minimize water use through recycling and avoid discharge of effluents into waterways. Farm shall manage sources of pollution to reduce risk of waterway contamination and create native vegetative buffer zones.

Rainforest Alliance

Water Resource Conservation: Water zones should have vegetative buffer and should not be altered from their natural course. Water use should be minimized and recycled where possible. Where aquifers are drawn upon, farmers shall demonstrate sustainable management and non-contamination. Water used in processing should be filtered or treated prior to discharging. All sources of water contamination, including agrochemicals, shall be eliminated or reduced to nationally acceptable levels. Water resource health should be monitored and maintained.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Protecting Water Resources: Watercourse buffer zones of 3 meters shall be established adjacent to all perennial water bodies and equipment use in these buffer zones is prohibited, except where there are existing roads. Application of chemical pesticides is restricted from being applied aerially within 100m of a water body and farm managers should actively avoid other risks to contamination of streams and rivers.

Water Conservation: Water quantity used for processing shall be tracked, recorded, and recycled for pulping and washing.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Soil and Water Conservation: Prevent/remedy soil and water salinization. Water resources shall be managed sustainably.

Fairtrade

Environmental Protection: Follow international legislation on protection of natural resources/ecosystems.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

This criterion focuses on the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity and ecosystems through the maintenance or creation of biological corridors, waterway buffer zones, and the use of mixed native shade trees. The criterion also includes provisions that prohibit the use of fire, hunting and gathering of threatened or endangered species, deforestation, or farm expansion into uncultivated areas.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Site History and Management: It is prohibited to deforest lands to increase farm size. Must comply with national and local laws regarding land use and biodiversity conservation. All fields must have a recording system in place along with a visual identification or reference system.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Biodiversity Conservation: Biodiversity shall be maintained through the protection of ecosystems. Farmers shall prohibit the use of fire in sensitive areas, restore vegetation and biological corridors, shade with diverse native species, and control pruning. Trainings shall be offered to promote environmental awareness and the responsibility of all workers on the farm to conserve resources.

Rainforest Alliance

Ecosystem Conservation: Ecosystems must be identified and protected and shall not be degraded from expanding farms.

Forest Protection: Areas not suitable for cultivation should be reforested or otherwise restored to a natural state. A vegetative border shall be maintained along waterways. Public roadsides must be forested. A vegetative border shall exist between workplaces and housing when agrochemicals are used. A canopy of mixed native trees shall be established/maintained where coffee is traditionally grown under shade. Pruning must be managed to maintain biodiversity and habitat.

Fire Prevention: The use of fire for clearing land is prohibited. Farmers must have a fire prevention plan and trained workers and equipment for fire control.

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Rainforest Alliance continued

Wildlife Conservation: Critical habitats shall be identified and managed and wildlife corridors shall be established where possible. Farms should have a management plan for protection/restoration of biodiversity. Hunting or harvesting of flora and fauna shall be prohibited except in the case of subsistence gathering of non-threatened species if proven to be sustainable. Production units shall not be located where they may adversely impact conservation areas.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

Conserving Biological Diversity: Farms shall maintain a diversified, non-invasive, shade canopy cover that consists of at least two native species. Removal of native trees is restricted and the extent of the canopy cover over coffee production areas shall be determined by product quality, economic, and ecological considerations. Where ecological considerations allow, the canopy shall be comprised of at least two distinct canopy strata.

Farm shall control unauthorized hunting and commercial collection of flora and fauna and efforts shall be undertaken to identify and protect vulnerable and endangered species. Areas possessing significant levels of natural forest or vegetation shall not be converted into farmland and areas of high ecological value shall be conserved or restored.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Ecosystem Management: Operators shall maintain and improve landscape for biodiversity. Clearing of primary ecosystems is prohibited.

Fairtrade

Environmental Protection: Follow international legislation on protection of natural resources/ecosystems. Majority of producers in farm/cooperative must grow coffee under tree shade.

Other Criteria

This section illustrates the remaining criteria for the individual standards that do not fall under the common criteria presented in this reference guide.

Utz Kapeh Code of Conduct

Varieties and Rootstocks: Any trials of GMO varieties must comply with national regulations and farmer must notify customers on the use of GMO varieties.

Harvesting: All harvesting equipment and transport shall be cleaned and maintained to prevent contamination of beans. All cherries must be processed within 24 hours of harvest. Weights and volume equipment must be calibrated and documented in last 12 months by a technician.

Post-harvest Product Handling: If coffee is not processed by grower, it must be processed by an Utz Kapeh certified mill. An annual health and safety risk analysis of the post-harvest treatment operation must be completed and documented, and recommended steps must be implemented. Farmers shall have a management plan and documentation system that demonstrate water used and byproducts produced during wet processing are minimized, water recycled back into system is filtered, and byproducts and water post processing are managed so as not to contaminate waterways. Coffee shall be dried with plenty of air circulation in clean facilities with no contact with soil. Proper moisture of de-hulled beans must be maintained and measured with accurate equipment. Processed coffee shall be transported and stored in clean and dry conditions to prevent contamination.

NKG Sustainability Standards

Energy Conservation: Farm shall reduce use of non-renewable sources of energy and likewise eliminate use of wood from natural forests.

Community Relations: Farm collaborates with local community on environmental, health and safety, and training issues, gives preference to local labor, and maintains continuous dialogue with community.

Other Criteria

Rainforest Alliance

Community Relations: Development of farm activities must demonstrate consideration of community interests, respect for community resources, and a shared responsibility in the preservation of resources. Adjacent communities should have priority of employment and training. Legal possession of land must be documentable. Environmental, health, and gender education should be a part of training program for farm workers and their families.

Starbucks CAFE Practices Program

General Conditions: Beans shall have a screen size 15 mm and above and lots shall have consistent grade, color, and bean size with zero defects. All coffee must meet Starbucks cupping quality and represent the unique characteristics of its particular origin.

Energy Consumption: Parchment coffee shall be patio dried to the extent possible given local climactic conditions.

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard

Genetic Engineering: The use of GMOs in any form is prohibited, including on-farm parallel production.

Conversion Requirements: A minimum conversion period of 18 months is required for perennial crops from date of last non-approved application or practice. During conversion period, all requirements of standard must be met.

Maintenance of Organic Management: Operator shall demonstrate a production system that maintains organic systems over time without switching between organic and conventional methods.

Choice of Crops and Varieties: Organic seed and plant materials must be used when available. Standard-setting organizations will determine permissible non-organic seed/plant material if organic varieties are not available.

Other Criteria

Basic IFOAM Organic Standard continued

Avoiding Contamination: Operator shall utilize appropriate means such as barriers and/or buffer zones to avoid contamination of organic products. Operator shall take the necessary steps to identify and contain potential sources of contamination when they are suspected. Use of synthetic materials such as netting and barriers shall be limited to those based of polyethylene or polypropylene and shall not be burned on farmland after use. All equipment used in conventional systems shall be thoroughly cleaned of any potential contaminants prior to use in the organic system.

Processing and Handling: Organic and non-organic products should not be commingled. Organic products must be labeled as such and stored and transported away from contact with conventional products. Handlers and processors shall take precaution to avoid contaminating organic products with pollutants, including residues on equipment and facilities.

Packaging: Organic products may not be packaged or stored using materials that may contaminate them with residues from the packaging's previous contents, synthetic fungicides, preservatives or fumigants.

Fairtrade

Fairtrade Adds Development Potential: Fairtrade premiums will allow for the promotion of social and economic development for small farmers.

Members Are Small Producers: Farms use limited or no permanent hired labor. Majority of producers are small farmers producing more than 50 percent of total production of Fairtrade product.

Fairtrade Premium: Premiums transparently and democratically administered.

Exportability: Must possess logistical, administrative, and technical means to bring a quality product to market.

Economic Strengthening of Organization: Organization geared towards economic strengthening. Democracy, participation, and transparency in farm organization.

Part III

Resources

This section provides contacts and Web sites to gather more information on these and other standards as well as international certifying bodies. Part III of this reference guide is not meant to be an exhaustive list of resources.

Resources

Eastern African Fine Coffees Association (EAFCA)

EAFCA Secretariat
Plot 958, Muyenga Hill
P. O. Box 27405
Kampala, Uganda
Contact: Robert Nsibirwa
Tel: +256-41-269140/1
Fax: +256-41-269148
Email: secretariat@eafca.org
www.worldswildestcoffee.com

Ugocert

c/o NOGAMU Certification Office
P.O. Box 70071
Kabalagala, Kampala
Uganda
Contact: Charles Walaga
Phone: +256-41-269 416
Email: organic.cert@utlonline.co.ug

Association for Better Land Husbandry (ABLH)

P.O. Box 39042
Nairobi
Kenya
Contact: Mr. R.J Cheatle
Phone: +254-2-52 10 90
Fax: +254-2-52 14 82
Email: ablh.sec@net2000ke.com
www.ablh.org

Chemonics International Inc.

1133 20th St, NW
Washington, DC 0036
Contact: Rebecca Cague
Phone: 202-955-7534
Fax: 202-775-6660
Email: rcague@chemonics.com
www.chemonics.com

Resources

Coffee Associations

Interafrican Coffee Organizations (IACO)	www.oiac-iaco.org
International Coffee Association (ICO)	www.ico.org
Green Coffee Association (GCA)	www.green-coffee-assoc.org
Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA)	www.scaa.org
National Coffee Association, USA (NCA)	www.ncausa.org
Specialty Coffee Association of Europe (SCAE)	www.scae.org
European Coffee Association (ECF)	www.ecf-coffee.org

Technical Resources

CAB International	www.cabi.org
Coffee Research Institute	www.coffeeresearch.org
Coffee Quality Institute	www.coffeeinstitute.org
Coffee Science Information Centre (CoSIC)	www.cosic.org
Coffee Science Source (CSS)	www.coffeescience.org
Coffee Origins' Encyclopedia	www.supremo.be
WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard	http://www.inchem.org/pages/pds.html
Pesticide Action Network, link to the Dirty Dozen	http://www.panna.org/resources/documents/dirtyDozenChart.dv.html

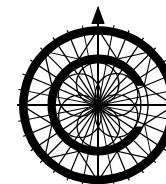
International Certifiers

ECOCERT	www.ecocert.fr
International Certification Services (ICS)	www.ics-intl.com
Instituto Mediterraneo di Certificazione (IMC)	www.imcdotcom.com
Institut fur Marktökologie (IMO)	www.imo.ch
KRAV Ekonomisk Forening	www.krav.se
Quality Assurance International (QAI)	www.qai-inc.com
Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)	www.scscertified.com
SGS Certification Services	www.sgs.com
SKAL	www.skal.com
Soil Association	www.soilassociation.org

Produced by the Environment and Natural Resource Management and Agribusiness Practice Networks.

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