



# Rainforest Alliance Policy on certification requirements for Certificate holders on year three

December, 2019  
Version 1.1

### More information?

For more information about the Rainforest Alliance, visit [www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org) or contact [info@ra.org](mailto:info@ra.org)

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## Policy

<b>Issue Date:</b>	<b>Binding date:</b>	<b>Expiration date:</b>
February 1, 2020	Immediately	Until next review
<b>Developed by:</b>		<b>Approved by:</b>
Standards & Assurance		Leadership Team
<b>Linked to (code and name of documents, if applicable):</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RA-S-SP-1-V1 Sustainable Agriculture Standard, July 2017</li> <li>• RA-R-SP-1-V2 Certification Rules 2017</li> </ul>		
<b>Replaces:</b>		
RA-P-SP-16-V1 Policy on certification requirements for Certificate holders on year three		
<b>Clause or criterion number:</b>		
N/A		
<b>Applicable to:</b>		
Certificate holders		
<b>Regions:</b>		
All regions		
<b>Crops:</b>	<b>Type of organizations:</b>	
All crops, apart from palm oil	Individual farms and group administrators	

## 1. Introduction

The Rainforest Alliance is an international non-profit organization working at the intersection of business, agriculture, and forests to make responsible business the new normal. We are an alliance of companies, farmers, foresters, communities, and consumers committed to creating a world where people and nature thrive in harmony. For more information about Rainforest Alliance, visit our website: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org>.

## 2. Policy

### 2.1 Introduction

The certification rules of Rainforest Alliance require certificate holders to comply with the rules for continuous improvement corresponding to their year in the certification cycle. Failing to meet the required level will result in the suspension and eventual cancellation of the certificate (reference: section 7.2 of the Certification Rules).

This set of rules was designed before Rainforest Alliance and Utz merged. By the time this policy is published, the new integrated Rainforest Alliance certification system is in its final stage of development. A new standard and new assurance rules will be published in June 2020 and will become mandatory in mid-2021.

To facilitate a smooth transition of Rainforest Alliance certificate holders to the new system, this policy has been approved. This policy does not apply to palm oil.

### 2.2 Compliance Rules for Continuous Improvement

1. For certificate holders that, according to the Rainforest Alliance certification cycle are on year three or beyond, this policy overrules the content of **Section 7.2 letter (a) (ii)** of the Certification Rules.
2. In order to maintain certification, individual farms and group administrators holding a valid Rainforest Alliance certificate that reach year three of the certification cycle, or beyond, are required to:
  - a. Fully comply with all applicable critical criteria and
  - b. Achieve 100% compliance with Level C criteria.
3. Full or partial compliance with any criteria on levels B and A is not required to maintain certification.
4. A certificate holder that does not comply with the requirements in point 2 of this section may be subject to a verification audit, as per section 6.3 of the Certification Rules.

5. Certificate holders that voluntarily decide to follow the Compliance Rules for Continuous Improvement as originally specified in the Certification Rules are allowed to do so.
6. Rainforest Alliance holds the right to interpret the content of this policy and to decide in unforeseen cases.