

# SUPPLY SHORTAGE POLICY

## DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERIOD

*Effective April 2020*

### PURPOSE

Due to supply chain disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, we understand that many of our company partners may be struggling to source enough Rainforest Alliance Certified™ (RAC) agricultural crops for their products with the RAC seal, or enough UTZ certified crops for their products with the UTZ label. This policy addresses this concern, building upon the current Supply Shortage clause 6.13 in the [Requirements and Guidelines for Use of the Rainforest Alliance Trademarks](#).

### APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to manufacturers, packers and roasters of consumer-facing products bearing the RAC seal or the UTZ label, if the COVID-19 pandemic causes a supply shortage resulting in one or more of these labeled products to:

- A. Contain less than 90% certified content, or
- B. Contain less than the percentage of certified content claimed on the package, or
- C. Source less than 100% certified inputs in the case of mass-balance-based products.

### REQUIREMENTS

There are three requirements in this case:

1. The company holding or requesting the approval to use the UTZ label or RAC seal must notify the Rainforest Alliance in writing to [customersuccess@ra.org](mailto:customersuccess@ra.org) that one or more of its products is experiencing a supply shortage due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide all requested information and documentation.
2. The company marketing the product labeled with the RAC seal or UTZ label must include the disclaimer statement below on its website for the duration of the shortage. This statement can be on the product or brand page, or on a sustainability-related page describing sourcing from RAC and/or UTZ certified farms.
3. Between July 1 and December 31, 2020, the brand manufacturer must buy an additional amount of RAC or UTZ certified crop equal to the shortfall and, if possible, from the same country or region of origin to use in its other products so that the certified farms do not suffer a decrease in demand. Only companies that are already sourcing 100% RAC or UTZ certified for that crop across all their products are exempted from this requirement.

### DOCUMENTATION & REPORTING

1. The company requesting the supply shortage allowance must have documented confirmation by the supplier(s) that they cannot meet their sourcing requirements; and



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2. Company must report to the Rainforest Alliance by Jan. 31, 2021, the certified volume that was substituted with conventional during the shortage and provide traceability/ transaction references for the compensating certified volume purchased.

## **DISCLOSURE TEXT TEMPLATE**

*Due to supply chain disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently unable to source enough certified [crop] for our [brand/products] with the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal and/or UTZ label. This means that these products may not currently contain any [or contain only XX%] UTZ certified and/or Rainforest Alliance Certified ingredients. We apologize for the inconvenience. As soon as this supply shortage is resolved, we expect to return to sourcing from UTZ certified and/or Rainforest Alliance Certified farms for these products. We will also purchase a volume of certified [crop] equivalent to what we would have used during this period, doing our part to help support farmers and protect the environment.*