

# RAINFOREST ALLIANCE POLICY

## New Certificate Holders During the Transition Period for the 2020 Rainforest Alliance Certification Program

*Version 1*



**RAINFOREST  
ALLIANCE**



The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities.

### Translation Disclaimer

For any question related to the precise meaning of the information contained in the translation, please refer to the official English version for clarification. Any discrepancies or differences in meaning due to translation are not binding and have no effect for auditing or certification purposes.

### 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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Global Assurance		Standards & Assurance Director	
<b>Linked to:</b>			
SA-R-GA-1-V1 Certification and Auditing Rules			
<b>Replaces:</b>			
N/A			
<b>Applicable to:</b>			
Farm and supply chain organizations that do not hold an UTZ or 2017 RA certificate			
<b>Country/Region:</b>			
All			
<b>Crop:</b>		<b>Type of Certification:</b>	
All crops in the Rainforest Alliance Certification system scope. Please refer to Certification Rules		Certificate holders for Farm, Certificate holders for Supply Chain	

This policy document is binding. This means that it must be adhered to; therefore, this policy supersedes any related rules or requirements contained in the documents listed in the section "linked to" and/or "replaces" for those party or parties as indicated in the "applicable to" section.

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## INTRODUCTION

Rainforest Alliance has established a one-year period with special, transitory rules intended to facilitate a smooth transition from the UTZ and 2017 Rainforest Alliance Programs into the new 2020 Rainforest Alliance Certification Program. This document covers the rules new organizations must follow in order to request a transition period audit between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.

## GENERAL TERMS

1. The term 'new organization' refers to any farm or supply chain actor that does not hold a valid UTZ or Rainforest Alliance certificate by June 30, 2021, and wishes to achieve certification with the 2020 Rainforest Alliance Certification Program, either individually or as a group or multi-site.
2. The 'transition period', defined as the period when a new organization is audited and receives their one-year transition certificate, for the 2020 Rainforest Alliance Certification Program, lasts from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
3. All other rules in the 2020 Rainforest Alliance Certification and Auditing Rules apply, where said rules do not contradict the provisions in this policy.

## NEW FARM ORGANIZATIONS

1. New farm organizations must start the certification process by registering on the Rainforest Alliance Certification Platform by completing the registration process on the Rainforest Alliance website at the following address: [https://portal.utz.org/CertificateHolder\\_Registration/Registration](https://portal.utz.org/CertificateHolder_Registration/Registration). Registration for the new program can start at any time.
2. Any organization that has farming in the scope of activities for certification shall follow the requirements for farm organizations. They will be audited against the applicable farm and supply chain requirements according to the activities they perform in relation to certified crops.
3. New farm organizations should register at least four months before the audit is required to allow sufficient time for audit preparation and scheduling.
4. Audits based on the 2020 Rainforest Alliance standard are possible as of July 1, 2021. All transition period audits must start no later than June 30, 2022. Audits with opening meetings taking place after this date will not be considered transition period audits.
5. New farm organizations shall start complying with the corresponding Rainforest Alliance 2020 Standard as of the day of the signature of their certification agreement with an authorized Certification Body for the transition period audit.
6. During the transition period, new farm organizations shall comply only with the applicable core requirements of the 2020 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm Requirements.
7. All transition period audits for new farm organizations must take place on-site. Remote transition audits are not authorized for new farm organizations.
8. Positive certification decisions resulting from transition period audits will lead to a Rainforest Alliance transition certificate with one-year validity.
9. Once the new farm organization receives their transition certificate, they will receive a license to sell new Rainforest Alliance volumes in the appropriate Rainforest Alliance Traceability Platform.



## NEW SUPPLY CHAIN ORGANIZATIONS

10. New supply chain organizations must start the certification process by registering on the Rainforest Alliance Certification Platform by completing the registration process on the Rainforest Alliance website at the following address: [https://portal.utz.org/CertificateHolder Registration/Registration](https://portal.utz.org/CertificateHolderRegistration/Registration). Registration for the new program can start from May 2021.
11. New individual or multi-site supply chain organizations shall undergo a Supply Chain Risk Assessment (SCRA) for each of their sites to determine whether it requires a transition period audit or an endorsement process to obtain a transition certificate.
12. New supply chain organizations shall start complying with the corresponding Rainforest Alliance 2020 standard as of the following dates (conformity date):
  - a. For those that require an audit for any of their sites: on the day of the signature of their certification agreement with an authorized certification body for the transition period audit.
  - b. For those that are eligible for an endorsement for all their sites: on the day an endorsement is issued.
13. All transition period audits for new supply chain organizations will take place remotely.
14. Once a new supply chain organization has successfully passed their transition period audit or received an endorsement, they will receive a transition certificate with a validity of one year.
15. Once a new supply chain actor has received their transition certificate they may purchase and sell volumes of crops certified under any of the following certification programs: the UTZ Certification Program, the 2017 Rainforest Alliance program, the 2020 Rainforest Alliance program. Unless otherwise stipulated in a particular traceability requirement or policy, the traceability requirements of the Rainforest Alliance 2020 Standard are applicable to all (new and legacy) volumes as of July 1, 2021.