

RAINFOREST ALLIANCE POLICY:

Exception policy to use combination of Thiamethoxam + Cyproconazole for Brazil

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**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.

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| Exception policy to use combination of Thiamethoxam + Cyproconazole for Brazil | March 9th, 2023 | Oct 31 st , 2023 |
| Linked to: | | |
| SA-P-SD-9 Exceptional Use Policy Application of Triazoles for Control of Coffee Leaf Rust (Hemileia Vastatrix) (2022) | | |
| Replaces: | | |
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| Applicable to: |
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| Farm certificate holders in Brazil in Coffee |
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Policies are binding. Policies complement and/or supersede related rules or requirements for the parties they are applicable to.

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, contact info@ra.org or contact the Rainforest Alliance Amsterdam Office, De Ruijterkade 6, 1013AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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EXCEPTION TO USE THE COMBINATION OF THIAMETHOXAM + CYPROCONAZOLE.

Thiamethoxam is an insecticide used in coffee to control insects such as leaf miners (*Leucoptera coffeella*), while cyproconazole is a systemic fungicide from the triazole group used to control coffee leaf rust (*Hemileia vastatrix*). Both substances are classified by the FAO/WHO as highly hazardous pesticides, which is why the Rainforest Alliance has included them in its list of prohibited pesticides; however, we have granted a temporary authorization to use these substances, while viable alternatives with lower toxicity profiles are identified. These authorizations are conditioned to be used within the strategy of Integrated Pest Management, in an efficient way and only with a complete implementation of the respective risk mitigation measures.

Different commercial formulations are available on the market that contains the above molecules individually and in combination with other fungicides and pesticides such as the combination of cyproconazole + thiamethoxam for soil application.

Rainforest Alliance prohibits soil application of cyproconazole, and therefore also prohibits the use of products combining thiamethoxam and cyproconazole, as research suggests that foliar application is more effective for controlling coffee leaf rust, in addition, foliar application methods reduce the risk of soil and aquatic ecosystems contamination by minimizing runoffs and leaching. Full details from the technical analysis are provided in this position paper: [Application of Triazoles for Control of Coffee Leaf Rust \(Hemileia Vastatrix\) | Rainforest Alliance \(rainforest-alliance.org\)](https://rainforest-alliance.org/application-of-triazoles-for-control-of-coffee-leaf-rust-hemileia-vastatrix/)

We acknowledge that some coffee producers in Brazil are using commercial formulations combining cyproconazole + thiamethoxam, Rainforest Alliance will support producers to gradually phase-out the use of these products through the following initiatives:

1. Granting a temporary authorization to use commercial products combining cyproconazole + thiamethoxam during the 2023 coffee harvest season.
2. Study the feasibility of using other products with the individual molecules of cyproconazole and thiamethoxam as an alternative.
3. Support the phase-out of the cyproconazole + thiamethoxam combination through workshops and trainings on the use of other alternatives.

The specific conditions regarding this exception are presented below:

- a. This exception does not set a precedent.
- b. Non-compliance with this policy is a non-conformity on requirement 4.6.1 of the Standard.
- c. The authorization will only be valid if the conditions and risk mitigation measures specified in the Exceptional Usage Policy are implemented.
- d. New purchases of inputs must consider that this product will not be authorized after the established date in this exception policy (October 31st, 2023), and the remaining inventory needs to be used or disposed of before that date.
- e. The CH must inform CB regarding the application of this exception.

For any questions, please contact the Brazil Certification Program team through the email: customersuccess@ra.org