

# RAINFOREST ALLIANCE POLICY

## Safe Use of Machines





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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SA-S-SD-1 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Farm requirements SA-S-SD-2 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard, Supply Chain requirements				
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All				
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All crops in the scope of the Rainforest Alliance Certification System; please see Certification Rules.		Farm Certification & Supply Chain Actors with Chapter 5 (Social) applicability.		

Policies are binding. Policies complement and/or supersede related rules or requirements for the parties they are applicable to.

#### [More information](#)

For more information about the Rainforest Alliance, visit [www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org), contact [info@ra.org](mailto:info@ra.org) or contact the Rainforest Alliance Amsterdam Office, De Ruijterkade 6, 1013AA Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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## Introduction

The Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard requires that a Health & Safety risk analysis is conducted within the certification scope (Chapter 5.6). Specifically, requirements 5.6.9 and 5.6.10 address the risks for workers related to the use of machinery.

High risks are recognized when using heavy machinery, e.g., for harvesting, on farm, but also in factories. This policy prescribes which additional risks Certificate Holders (CHs) need to manage when using such machines.

### Step 1: Identify high-risk machinery used

Identify all high-risk machines used at the certificate holder level.

These include self-propelling, hand-held, battery powered (BBH), and portable machine harvesters, pangas/machetes, and brush cutters.

### Step 2: Identify the risks related to machinery used

Identify the machinery that causes risks and to whom. This can be done through the risk analysis as required in 5.6.1 by assessing:

- The activities for which workers use machines;
- Who works with which types of machines;
- Where and when are the machines used (e.g., in areas neighboring communities, freely accessible areas);
- The possible misuses and risks of the machines;
- Which dangerous practices exist and why (root cause).

Specifically dangerous are machines that

- Are heavy and powerful;
- Bring risks in their use, maintenance, cleaning etc., e.g. (self-propelling) harvesting machines, pruning machines, but also brush cutters and chainsaws;
- Are used during a limited time, like the harvesting season. Workers operating them may be less familiar with their use and not used to dealing with dangerous situations.

### Step 3: Identify types of risks

- Stability of the machines (mud, hills, holes, loaders, unknown fields);
- Moving parts such as mowers, rakes (poor hitching on the machines, parts flying, entangling persons, intervention in running machines);
- Loading and movements of the machine (workers losing their balance, falling off, loads falling off);
- Transport to and from fields, especially when crossing or taking public roads;
- Storage of the machines when not in use.



#### **Step 4: Identify persons at risk**

People related to the work: The people potentially at risk must be identified for each machine and their use: workers, subcontractors, visitors, service providers, security guards.

Other persons who may be around the machines: If machinery is used in freely or easily accessible areas, or close to neighboring communities, like in the field, people other than workers can be at risk. Families living on the farm, persons passing by, playing children and farmers in neighboring fields are examples of other people potentially at risk.

#### **Step 5: Take risk mitigation measures**

Each risk must be addressed by adequate measures targeted to the group at risk (5.6.1). Certificate holders must pay special attention to women, children, workers who cannot read and other vulnerable groups e.g., persons who don't speak the local language, when using signs, and when organizing trainings and awareness raising activities.

For all persons at risk defined, measures must be taken into account in trainings, the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (5.6.9), and instructions for use, maintenance and storage (5.6.10).

In addition to requirements 5.6.9 and 5.6.10, at least the following extra measures have to be taken in the case of heavy or dangerous machines:

- Robust protocols including safety checks must be in place before, during and after use of machines.
- Regular monitoring to ensure safety checks and good practices remain in place over time.

For other persons who may be around, at least the following additional measures must be taken:

- Warning signs (permanent or temporary) at the place of use indicating the possible hazard, in the predominant language and/or in pictograms;
- Contact details of a trained first aid person and/or the nearest first aid location in case of accidents;
- Procedure for assistance to an injured person;
- Additional barriers (e.g., fences and/or guards) in the fields, barriers between villages and areas where the machines are used;
- Yearly awareness raising for the family of workers and relevant communities on the dangers associated with heavy machinery.

#### **Step 6: Monitor and evaluate the risk mitigation measures taken**

As required in 5.6.1, frequency and type of occupational health & safety incidents are recorded. Combined with the above steps, management must evaluate whether the measures taken have been efficiently implemented and reviews them if needed.