

Fairtrade Standards for UK Operators - Food Composite changes

Intent of the Food Composite Standards

The intent of labelling Food Composite products as Fairtrade certified is to provide the maximum benefit to Producers. This means that the product must contain as many Fairtrade certified ingredients as possible. This includes taking out the requirement to dehydrate ingredients. FLO has included the updated Food Composite Standards in the FLO Generic Trade Standards (GTS), and these are now in the updated Part 4 of the “**Fairtrade Standards for UK Operators**”. The new Food Composite Standards are simpler than the previous versions and have been adapted from the previous standards following feedback from Licensees.

Who the Change affects

The changes **affect manufacturers and Licensees of Fairtrade composite food products**, i.e. consumer ready products composed of more than one ingredient including products ready for sale by catering/food service.

For manufacturers/Licensees with **products which include dairy or any liquid ingredients** (excluding water you add in manufacturing) this change will mean you need to update your ingredient percentages as recorded in LASer to reflect the new method of calculating Fairtrade Content. This will need to be completed within the 2 year transition as detailed below. *NB. Dairy includes any unprocessed or processed versions of milk e.g. cream, cheese, yogurt etc.*

New Products to be approved

From the 1st July 2011 all new products will be considered for approval against the updated “Fairtrade Standards for UK Operators – Part 4”.

Transition of existing approved products

There is a 2 year transition for all existing products to meet the new food composite Standards. Most food composite products will need to have their recipes updated in LASer but the expectation is that the vast majority of these products will still be in compliance. Any product which is no longer in compliance will have two years to comply to the new Standards.

Key Change - Calculation of Fairtrade Content

The previous Standards for composite products required product composition to be assessed in dry weight. This included dehydrating liquid ingredients and excluding added water.

The new Standards require product composition to be assessed in total weight. If water or dairy is added in the manufacturing of the consumer ready product, and it makes up over 50% of that product, it is excluded from this calculation. *NB. This does not exclude water or dairy added in the manufacture of ingredients bought in ready-made to manufacture the consumer ready product from. See clause 4.02.03.*

Key Change - Thresholds

Previously to comply a product had to have 50% of the product as Fairtrade ingredients or 20% of one ‘significant’ Fairtrade ingredient (both calculated by dry weight). Liquid composites had to be 50% Fairtrade in the total volume.

Now to comply, 20% of the product, based on the calculation of Fairtrade content referred to above, needs to be Fairtrade. This 20% can be a combination of Fairtrade ingredients. *See clause 4.02.03.*

Queries

If you have any queries about how to apply for a product to be Fairtrade certified or how to update your existing products please contact your contact in the Commercial Relations Team at the Fairtrade Foundation.

See overleaf for full table of changes

Table detailing sections in the Standards that have been changed

SECTION OF STANDARDS – MARCH 2011	SECTION OF STANDARDS – JUNE 2011	COMMENTS
4 cover	4 cover	<i>Improved clarity by referring to products licensed to use the Fairtrade Mark</i>
4.01 guidance note	4.01 guidance note	<i>Updated to reflect new wording used in the updated FLO GTS</i>
4.01.01	4.01.01	<i>Updated references</i>
4.01.02, 4.01.03	4.01.02	<i>Merged with 4.01.03 to relate to all non-relevant ingredients. Improved clarity so any ingredient which cannot be derived from a product which has a FLO Part C Trade Standard is non-relevant. Took out reference to E numbers in guidance note.</i>
4.01.04	4.01.03	<i>Updated references</i>
Decision tree	Removed	<i>Took out and instead refers to relevant section in Part 6</i>
4.02 intro	4.02 intro	<i>Updated to reflect updated wording in FLO GTS</i>
4.02.01	4.02.01	<i>Updated to provide clarity that single ingredient products must be 100% Fairtrade. This was already in the guidance note and covered in clause 4.01.01. Definition moved to the introduction.</i>
4.02.02	4.02 Definitions. 4.02.02	<i>Moved to a new section for all definitions relevant to Food composites. This section now has wording from FLO GTS 'must contain as many Fairtrade certified ingredients as available' which is also covered in clause 4.01.01.</i>
4.02.03	4.02.03	<i>Replaced with new Composite rules on Fairtrade Content calculation from the FLO GTS. 50% threshold no longer applies.</i>
4.02.04	Removed	<i>Separate rules for fruit juice no longer apply</i>
4.02.05	Removed	<i>Significant ingredient rule no longer applies</i>
4.02.06	Removed	<i>Specific rule for products not meeting the threshold but contributing to producer benefit no longer applies.</i>
4.02.07	Removed	<i>Exceptions rules now refer to Part 6.</i>