



RSPO Principles & Criteria

Certification of Sustainable Palm Oil

What is it?

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a not-for-profit organization that unites stakeholders from 7 sectors of the palm oil industry. The RSPO has developed a set of environmental and social criteria which companies must comply with in order to produce Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO). When properly applied with the RSPO Principles & Criteria (P&C) Standard, these criteria can help minimize the negative impact of palm oil cultivation on the environment and communities in palm-producing regions. Many of the world's major brand owners and retailers now require that their suppliers use RSPO certification to ensure palm oil used in their products is certified. Transparency and credibility are assured by certifying all actors in the supply chain.

Why is RSPO Certification Important?

There is growing concern globally that agricultural commodities be produced without causing harm to the environment or society. With strong support from environmental organizations globally, RSPO certification provides assurance of best practices with regards to palm oil production. Palm oil is found in a growing and diverse set of products, from consumer packaged goods like soaps and cosmetics to fuel for vehicles. As new markets for palm oil open, new customers increasingly will require RSPO certification.

2018 P&C Review – Summary of Changes

- P&C 2018 was adopted at the 15th RSPO General Assembly in November 2018, and will enter into force in November 2019
- The Standard has taken a new structure, divided into 3 Impact Goals: Prosperity, People and Planet

Highlighted changes include:

- No deforestation
- Decent Living Wage
- No planting on peat
- Legality of third party FFB
- Human and Labor Rights
- Protection of Human right Defenders
- Requirement for The High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) in conjunction with HCV Assessment

Buyers have made public commitments that major consumption markets source significant volumes of CSPO. Anticipated consumption of Sustainable Palm Oil is estimated at:

- China: 10% CSPO by 2020
- India: 30% CSPO by 2020
- EU: 100% of CSPO by 2020
- North America: Fastest Growing RSPO Membership



Steps to Certification

1 Scoping and Project Initiation

- Client ensures they have RSPO membership and then submits application to request a quote for services
- SCS confirms the project scope and provides the client a no-obligation price quote
- Client signs Work Order and returns to SCS to begin the audit process



2 Audit Preparation

- Client implements RSPO procedures into their operational activities
- SCS auditor provides optional pre-assessment and indicates readiness to proceed to on-site audit

3 On-Site Audit & Report

- SCS auditor reviews procedures and documents and conducts an on-site audit of client operations
- SCS provides client with a report of findings on compliance to the RSPO standard
- Client responds to any necessary corrective action requests

4 Final Certification Decision

- SCS head office makes a certification determination and informs RSPO if approved.
- Client is issued a certificate, is listed on the RSPO website, and granted permission to use RSPO trademarks

For more information contact:

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