



FAIR TRADE USA CERTIFICATION

Recognizing Sustainability and Equitable Trade

What is Fair Trade USA?

Brand and retailer sustainability efforts increasingly require social responsibility and ethical sourcing, with a strong focus on audits and certifications to confirm legal compliance and best practices. Fair Trade is a simple, powerful and authentic way to communicate to consumers that your brand is dedicated to sustainability. The Fair Trade USA certification model is designed to ensure trade practices at every level of the supply chain are registered and audited to the Fair Trade USA Agriculture Production and Capture Fisheries Standards (APS and CFS). Fair Trade empowers consumers to support farmers and fishermen, protect the environment and foster community development through their everyday purchases.



Why choose SCS?

SCS offers the strongest expertise in the implementation of the Fair Trade Model, built from our long-standing collaboration with Fair Trade USA as the first approved certification body to both programs. In 2011, SCS collaborated in the development of Fair Trade USA's first Agriculture Production Standard followed by the first Capture Fisheries Standard. SCS brings to each client:

- 36+ years of experience in sustainable agriculture and seafood assessment
- Regional auditors with experience and extensive industry knowledge
- Expert support to help you navigate new customer requirements
- Exceptional customer service and quick turnaround time
- Ability to bundle Fair Trade certification with other food certifications for added efficiency and cost savings

For more information visit:

www.scsglobalservices.com/services/fair-trade-certification



STEPS TO CERTIFICATION

1

Apply for Certification

Complete a Fair Trade USA application form and email the application to: applications@fairtradeusa.org. Once Fair Trade USA has reviewed your application to ensure eligibility, your application will be forwarded to SCS.

2

Authorize a Proposal

SCS will review your application and prepare a proposal for your approval with scope of work, timeline and quote. To initiate the certification process, sign and return the Work Order.

3

Schedule and Prepare for Audit

Upon receipt of the signed Work Order, SCS will work with you to schedule the audit. SCS will provide an audit plan and request documents in advance of the onsite audit. Current auditing methodologies revolve around a hybrid audit approach comprised of a remote portion focused on document review and management interviews, followed up by an onsite audit which focuses on field visits and worker interviews. We have adjusted our methods to accommodate travel restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

4

Undergo Audit

The on-site audit includes document review, worker interviews, and field observations. Draft findings are communicated in the closing meeting. Audit report is sent to client within 20 business days.

5

Corrective Actions

Any issues cited in the Non-Conformity Report (NCR) are addressed by Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) within 30 days. CAPs are the client's opportunity to improve business activities and provide clear evidence that implementation occurred.

6

Certification Decision

SCS issues a certification decision once all non-conformities are closed in the CAPs prepared by the client.

7

Receive Certification

SCS provides a Fair Trade certification registration number, certificate, and applicable on-product label. Certificates are valid for 3 years and surveillance audits are conducted annually.

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