



Agricultural Production Standard Update Announcement

Fair Trade USA

June 15, 2021

Fair Trade USA would like to announce the publication of the updated Agricultural production Standard (APS) version 1.2.0. For over a year, the Fair Trade USA team has been working diligently on a minor revision to our APS to expand its applicability to new commodities, such as dairy, and improve its clarity and consistency to better meet the ever-evolving needs and expectations of the farmers and workers we serve.

The main updates to the APS include:

- Added direct links and references to Fair Trade USA's supporting policies, procedures, and guidance documents, to facilitate easier and more streamlined implementation.
- Added clarifying language for animal agriculture operations.
- Added additional clarifying language and definitions to improve understanding throughout the standard, such as increased explanation on delegate systems, proportional representation, what constitutes a "significant change," and "hazardous materials".
- Clarified the intent and flexibility of a number of requirements, including those related to the Fair Trade Committee meeting frequency, structural requirements for the formation of a legal entity representing the Premium Participants, calculation of prevailing wages and comparison to living wage benchmarks, calculation of compensation for rest time, overtime hour limits, and the relationship between the risk assessment and the internal inspection.

These updates were made based on learnings from initial pilot certifications in dairy, consultation with key dairy industry stakeholders, feedback and questions received from other applicants and clients, as well as Fair Trade USA staff and field staff who support the implementation of the APS. The updates are intended to drive improved clarity of our APS and incorporate guidance for new commodities like dairy, and do not represent significant changes to the intent of the standard – minor revisions do not require significant change in practice by certified clients.

Effective January 01, 2022, all audits will be conducted against the updated APS (version 1.2.0). The updated APS and Compliance Criteria are currently available in English, with translations for Spanish, Filipino, French, Indonesian, Portuguese, and Chinese following later this year.

To download the APS version 1.2.0, and other associated policies and guidance documents, please visit our [standards page](#). Background documents on the revision and expansion into dairy, including the Dairy Project Plan, FAQ, and summaries of feedback received with Fair Trade USA's responses, are available [online as well](#). Questions or comments about the updated APS and associated documents can be sent to standards@fairtradeusa.org.

