



Rainforest Alliance Supply Chain certification

Service information

What is Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Supply Chain certification?

As an organisation committed to utilising certified sources, you want confidence in the claim you make about your product. The Supply Chain certification is an essential component of any sustainability certification system.

In 2020, the Rainforest Alliance Certification Programme introduced numerous [innovations](#) to ensure that certification is more context-specific, data-driven and risk-based.

The **Supply Chain certification** is the process of tracking a product in its journey, from a certified farm through the various stages of trading, manufacturing and warehousing, to assure the end-consumer that the claim made on the product accurately reflects the certified content or sourcing of that product. This is protected through the credibility of the Rainforest Alliance Certified™ seal, which marks the product as the one that has been responsibly produced.

What are the key roles and responsibilities within the RA Supply Chain Certification system?

The **Rainforest Alliance** (RA) is an international non-profit organisation working at the intersection of business, agriculture and forests to make responsible business the new normal. Staying true to its mission, the Rainforest Alliance has created the 2020 Certification Programme, which is based on the 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard (SAS). [Certification bodies](#) (CB) are third party organisations that have been accredited to perform certification and verification audits on companies wanting to produce, process, trade or sell products in compliance with the rules set out in a standard. All RA SAS certification bodies need to follow accreditation guidelines published by Rainforest Alliance. They also need Rainforest Alliance's authorisation to carry out Supply Chain audits.



Which certification standards apply to my organisation?

The **2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard** sets out the scope of the Supply Chain System and it is complemented by a series of annexes (binding) and guides to help certificate holders understand and implement the applicable requirements. Rainforest Alliance will determine which are the applicable requirements that need to be reviewed during the certification audit, based on a Supply Chain Risk Assessment (SCRA).

The SCRA evaluates the potential risks of an organisation's operations on individual site level to determine the type and frequency of verification required. The organisation's profile will result in a contextualised checklist and the required level of verification determined.

Verification level	Verification method		
	Year 1: certification	Year 2: surveillance	Year 3: surveillance
A - very low	Rainforest Alliance's review	Rainforest Alliance's automated check	Rainforest Alliance's automated check
B - low	CB's remote surveillance audit	Rainforest Alliance's review	Rainforest Alliance's automated check
C - medium	On-site CB's certification audit	CB's remote surveillance audit	Rainforest Alliance's review
D - high	On-site CB's certification audit	On-site CB's certification audit	CB's remote surveillance audit
E - very high	On-site CB's certification audit	On-site CB's certification audit	On-site CB's certification audit



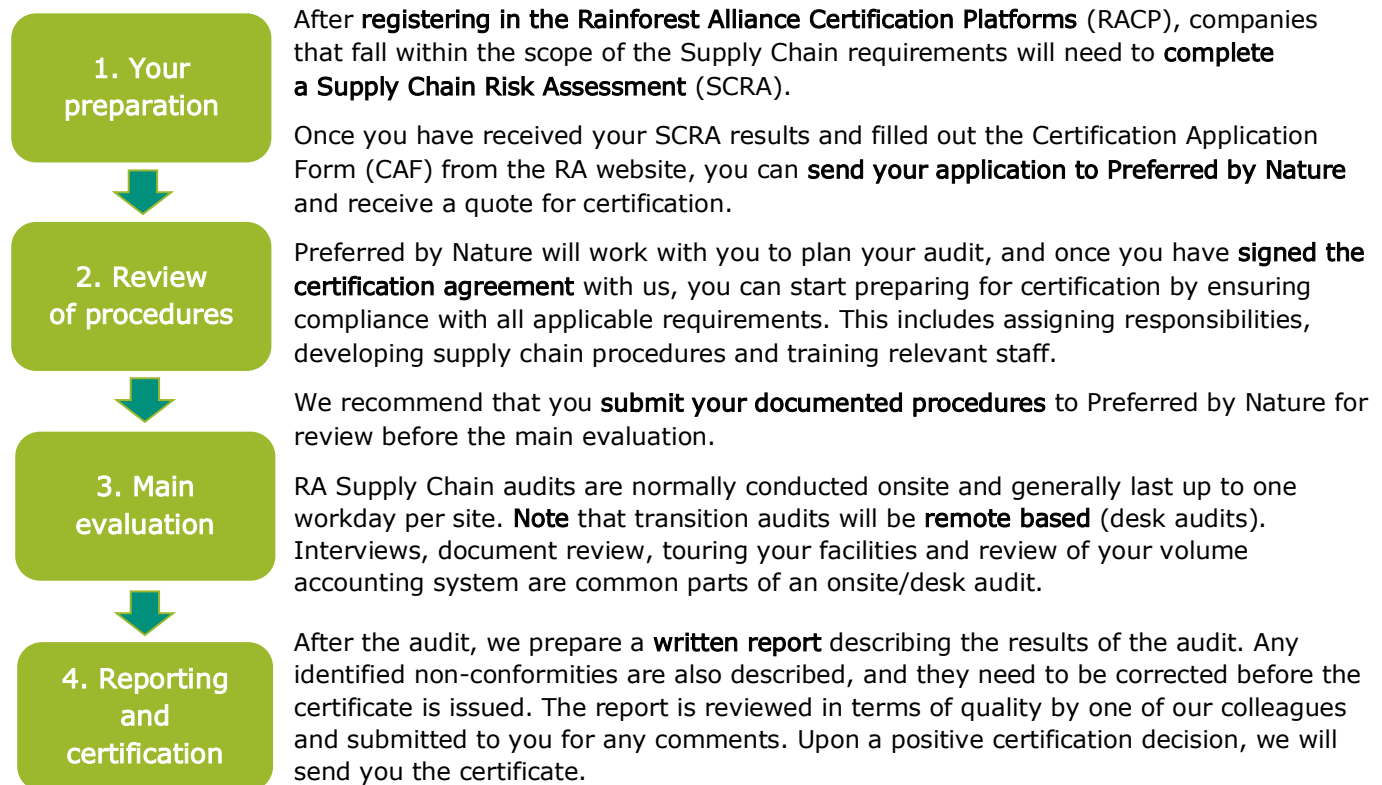
The [Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Supply Chain Standard](#) (version 1.1) applies to all supply chain certified companies and sets out general requirements for material handling. Within this main standard, there are five principles: Management, Traceability, Income and Shared Responsibility, Social, and Environment.

The individual requirements may or may not apply to every company, depending on the activities performed at each certified site and the SCRA results. For example, the principle 2 requirements deal with Traceability. Companies may maintain physical separation of certified material (Segregation) or mix certified and non-certified materials (Mass Balance model - currently for cocoa, flowers, hazelnuts, coconut oil and orange juice).

What does the certification process entail?

Rainforest Alliance Supply Chain certificates are issued for a **three-year period**. As a certification body, we conduct an initial assessment as a basis for your certification. Subsequently, you need to undergo annual audits to maintain the certification status. Full recertification is required every three years.

Note that the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 is considered to be a **Transition Period** for the 2020 Rainforest Alliance Certification Programme. Once a positive certification decision is received, a 1-year transition certificate is issued. Starting July 2022, certification audits based on all applicable requirements of 2020 RA SAS will be carried out. A positive certification will result in issuance of a new certificate, to be valid 3 years, subject to annual audits.



Which trademarks can be used?

The **Rainforest Alliance logo and trademarks** can be applied to certified products and used for promotional purposes if you are registered on the Rainforest Alliance Traceability Platform, Marketplace and have signed a RA Trademark License Agreement upon your registration.



It is Rainforest Alliance who will approve your trademark usage and Preferred by Nature will only confirm during the audit whether a license agreement is in place, whether a logo approval requesting system is in place and whether the actual content of the product meets the claim.

What is the cost structure?

The **total certification cost** consists of the costs related to the auditing services and Preferred by Nature's RA SAS Supply Chain Programme fee. The auditing fee depends on the SCRA results, the size and complexity of the company and its supply chain system. It will be specified in our proposal.

Separately, Rainforest Alliance charges you a fee for the SCRA review, once per certification cycle, to cover administrative costs. **Note** that in order to make the transition process easier for all companies, RA will not require the SCRA processing fee to be paid during the transition year against the new 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard. For more information, please visit the [Rainforest Alliance website](#).

What about assurance?

Preferred by Nature Quality Management System includes a number of [policies](#) and procedures that allow our organisation to provide assurance services in a credible way in compliance with external requirements. These include [Impartiality Policy](#), which is to ensure impartiality, transparency and independence in all of our activities, [Confidentiality Policy](#), describing our rigorous approach to safeguarding confidential data and information provided by our clients, and [Anti-corruption Policy](#), which establishes control to ensure our employees behave ethically and with integrity.

To check if accounting for the certified volumes is correct, the RA SAS Supply Chain auditors will need access to some confidential information, such as your suppliers, buyers, recipes and conversion factors. The confidentiality of all data is secured, and our staff is bound by strict confidentiality requirements.

Our evaluation procedures aim to maintain the trust of our clients that commercially sensitive and other types of confidential information received, from them or from other sources, will not be revealed to unauthorised parties. All Preferred by Nature's personnel is required to sign a confidentiality agreement with Preferred by Nature where they agree to maintain complete confidentiality in terms of all client documentation, interviews, conversations and any information related to the certification/verification audit process pertaining to the organisation/source being evaluated.

However, all RA Supply Chain certificates are listed in the public [Rainforest Alliance database](#), along with information about the scope of your certificate, e.g. product types and sites.

How do I maintain my certificate?

You need to **comply with the certification requirements** to remain certified. This is verified through annual surveillance audits as per Rainforest Alliance's Certification and Auditing Rules, so an audit will not be required each year. Please note that the reassessments cannot be delayed and they must take place prior to the anniversary date of your certificate issuance, otherwise your certificate will be automatically terminated.

In between the audits, we help you to stay up to speed on the requirements by providing **regular updates** on any system changes. If we identify non-conformities in your system during the audits, you need to take an appropriate and effective action to address them.