



# Rainforest Alliance Transition Rules for Farms and Group Administrators

From the 2010/11 Standards to the 2017 Sustainable  
Agriculture Standard

July, 2017

The Rainforest Alliance works to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable livelihoods by transforming land-use practices, business practices, and consumer behavior.

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## Transition Rules for Farms and Group Administrators

From the 2010/11 SAN Standards to the 2017 Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard

1. The rules in this document apply to certified organizations holding a valid certificate on June 30, 2017 based on compliance with SAN 2010/11 standards<sup>1</sup>.
2. All audits taking place from July 1, 2017 onwards shall exclusively be based on the 2017 Rainforest Alliance Standard<sup>2</sup>. The 2017 Standard shall not be used for audits conducted before July 1, 2017.
3. Any certification process based on the SAN 2010/11 standards, shall be concluded by June 30, 2017 the latest.
4. Certified organizations holding a valid certificate on June 30, 2017 will receive a certification audit by a Rainforest Alliance authorized certification body (CB) according to the following table:

Date of last certification audit with the 2010/11 SAN Standards	Date of first certification audit with the 2017 Standard
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester of 2014	1 July 2017 – 31 December 2017
2015 <sup>3</sup>	1 July 2017 – 31 March 2018
2016 <sup>4</sup>	1 January 2018 – 30 June 2018
1 <sup>st</sup> semester of 2017	1 July 2018 – 31 December 2018

5. After July 1, 2017, certified organizations that require a verification audit in consequence of failed certification or annual audits based on the 2010/11 SAN Standards, shall be subject to a 'Year 0' Certification Audit based on the 2017 Standard, instead of this originally planned verification audit.
6. As of the publication date of this document, and until June 30, 2017, certified organizations willing to expand their audit scope are authorized to do so by means of a

<sup>1</sup> Refers to the SAN Sustainable Agriculture Standard, July 2010 (version 4); and/or SAN Group Certification Standard, March 2011 (version 2); and/or the SAN Standard for Sustainable Cattle Production Systems, July 2010.

<sup>2</sup> 2017 Standard refers to the "Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard for Farms and Producer Groups involved in crop and cattle production, July 2017".

<sup>3</sup> Operations that had a certification audit during the first half of 2015, and an annual audit during the first half of 2016 will not require an annual audit during the first half of 2017 applying a 6-month deferral until they undergo a certification audit with the 2017 standard.

<sup>4</sup> Operations that had a certification audit during the second half of 2016 will not be required to undergo an annual audit during the second half of 2017 applying a 6-month deferral until they undergo a certification audit with the 2017 standard.

verification audit, regardless of the number of new members or the total size of the new area to be included. This fact will not cause the beginning of a new certification cycle.

7. Certified organizations may voluntarily decide to start a new 'Year 0' Certification Audit based on the 2017 Standard as of July 1, 2017. The CB shall inform Rainforest Alliance via [sas@ra.org](mailto:sas@ra.org) about the certified organizations that request this option.
8. Certified organizations may be subject to force majeure circumstances that limit their ability to be audited at a particular time. Possible exceptions to the above schedule may be granted for farms or group administrators where harvest seasonality could be an issue for conducting the certification audit. Each of these cases shall be sent by the respective CB to the Rainforest Alliance, who will analyze and decide about each case and forward the decision to the CB.
9. Rainforest Alliance reserves the right and holds the authority to analyze and define the interpretation or exceptions to this document and decide on unforeseen cases. Furthermore, Rainforest Alliance reserves the right to modify the content of this document at any time, which will be communicated to farms or group administrators via the CB.