



Rainforest Alliance India potable water and housing requirements

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Version 1

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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Policy

Issue Date:	Binding date:	Expiration date:
May 31, 2017	July 1, 2017	Until next review
Developed by:		Approved by:
Standards and Policy Unit, SAN Secretariat		SAN Standards and Policy Director
Linked to (code and name of documents, if applicable):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RA-S-SP-1-V1 Sustainable Agriculture Standard, July 2017 • RA-R-SP-1-V2 Certification Rules 2017 		
Replaces:		
-		
Clause or criterion number and text:		
<p>Potable Water - critical criterion 4.12:</p> <p>Farmers, workers, and their families are afforded access to potable water through one of the following means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Access to a public potable water system is provided. b) Potable water provided by the <i>farm management</i> and <i>group administrator</i> complies with <i>Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters</i> based on testing preceding each Rainforest Alliance certification audit and any time that new <i>water contamination risks</i> have occurred. Potable water sources are protected and water distribution mechanisms are maintained to avoid contamination. c) In the case of <i>smallholder</i> groups, the <i>group administrator</i> implements and documents a training program to instruct smallholder members on potable water treatments, such as boiling, filtering or chlorinating and the prevention of water contamination. <p>Housing criteria:</p> <p>Critical Criterion 4.13. When the farm management and group administrator provide housing to workers and their families, it includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Absence of rats, mice, insects and vermin, or conditions that favor their populations that could cause disease or carry parasites that function as vectors of diseases; b) Dry floors; c) Protection against rain, wind or cold weather conditions; d) No conditions posing imminent threats to the health or security of the occupants; e) A register of workers and family members that live in management provided housing; f) Separate beds; g) Doors with locking mechanism. <p>Continuous Improvement Criterion 4.28 Level C. When the <i>farm management</i> and <i>group administrator</i> provide housing to <i>workers</i>, or <i>workers</i> with their families, this housing meets the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Beds are not arranged in more than two levels; b) Natural light during the daytime and artificial light for the nighttime; c) Natural ventilation that ensures movement of air in all conditions of weather and climate; 		

- d) Functional and effective fire wood smoke evacuation or ventilation mechanisms well maintained or repaired;
- e) Non-leaking windows, doors and roofs;
- f) At least one toilet for every 15 persons, one urinal for every 25 men, one washbasin for every six persons or per family;
- g) At least one shower per 10 persons, separated by gender;
- h) At least one large laundry sink for every 30 persons;
- i) Installed and maintained fire extinguishing mechanisms;
- j) Marked safety exits.

Continuous Improvement Criterion 4.30 Level B. When the *farm management* and *group administrator* provide housing to *workers*, or *workers* with their families, this housing meets the following conditions:

- a) Sleeping space is at least
 - i. For rooms with two persons: 7.5 square meters (m²);
 - ii. For rooms with three persons: 11.5 m²;
 - iii. For rooms with four persons: 14.5 m²;
 - iv. If a room accommodates more than four persons, the floor area is at least 3.6 m² per person;
 - v. When workers reside with their family, living space per family group is at least 30 m²;
- b) Sealed floors;
- c) Space for belongings;
- d) Headroom is of not less than 203 centimeters for full and free movement;
- e) Cooking facilities;
- f) Toilets are designed to maximize safety for women and children, including good sight lines to latrines, privacy structures with locks and well-lit toilet areas.

Applicable to:	
Certification Bodies and Auditors authorized for the India country scope	
Regions:	
India	
Crops:	Type of organizations:
All	All

1. Introduction

Rainforest Alliance is a growing network of people who are inspired and committed to working together to achieve our mission of conserving biodiversity and ensuring sustainable livelihoods. For more information about Rainforest Alliance, visit our website: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org>.

2. Policy

2.1 Introduction on India Plantations Labor Act (1951)

India's Plantations Labor Act (PLA) from 1951 rules the following with respect to potable water for workers on plantations:

PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

8. Drinking water. -In every plantation effective arrangements shall be made by the employer to provide and maintain at convenient places in the plantation a sufficient supply of wholesome drinking water for all workers.

Regarding to housing, the PLA determines the following:

15. Housing facilities. -- It shall be the duty of every employer to provide and maintain necessary housing accommodation-

(a) For every worker (including his family) residing in the plantation;

(b) For every worker (including his family) residing outside the plantation, who has put in six months of continuous service in such plantation and who has expressed a desire in writing to reside in the plantation:

Provided that the requirement of continuous service of six months under this clause shall not apply to a worker who is a member of the family, of a deceased worker who, immediately before his death, was residing in the plantation.

The PLA defines family as follows:

"Family", when used in relation to a worker means-

(i) His or her spouse, and

(ii) The legitimate and adopted children of the worker dependent upon him or, who have not completed their eighteenth year and includes, where the worker is a male, his parents dependent upon him.

This policy provides the framework for auditing and certification processes based both on the India PLA and the Rainforest Alliance 2017 standard criteria for drinking water and housing when provided by farm management and group administrator to workers and their families – two essential needs that contribute to sustainable livelihoods of Indian worker families.

2.2 POLICY: India potable water requirements for the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

The following Policy on Potable Water Requirements for India is binding for audits that take place in India on or after July 1, 2017 based on the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard and its related standards and policy documents:

1. Considering that for Critical Criterion 4.12 plantations without provision of public drinking water shall comply with the following:
 - a. Potable water provided by the farm management and group administrator complies with Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters based on testing preceding each Rainforest Alliance certification audit and any time that new water contamination risks have occurred. Potable water sources are protected and water distribution mechanisms are maintained to avoid contamination.
 - b. Rainforest Alliance safe drinking water parameters are based on WHO parameters as follows:

Parameter	Value
E. coli or thermo-tolerant coliform bacteria	Not detectable in any 100-ml sample
Chlorine residue or residue from other treatment disinfectants	Maximum 0.5 mg/L
pH	6.5 to 8.5
Sodium	Maximum 20 mg/L
Nitrates	Maximum 10 mg/L as nitrates
Sulphates	Maximum 250 mg/L
Turbidity ¹	Less than or equal to 5 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Unit)

- c. Water contamination risk is defined as: Alteration of water treatment systems and associated pipes, or natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, tremors or landslides.
 - i. In the case of India, the monsoon rainy season and open water pumps represent water contamination risk.
2. Any Indian state government may additionally rule “*The examination by an inspector or other persons of the supply and distribution of drinking water in plantations.*”
3. Considering the binding contents of sections 1 and 2, single-certificate farms and group administrators shall prove the drinking water quality according to clause 2.2.1.b) of this policy.
 - a. Sampling for water quality analysis may be based on a representative sample of farms, their pump types and numbers and shall prove that the water contamination risks of clauses 2.2.1.c. and 2.2.1.c.i do not negatively affect the

¹ The lack of transparency of a liquid due to the presence of particles in suspension. The measurement of turbidity is a key test of water quality. With more solids in suspension in a liquid, the liquid will appear dirtier and its turbidity will be higher.

drinking water quality according to clause 2.2.1.b for the workers and their families that live on the farm.

2.3 POLICY: India housing requirements for the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard

The following Rainforest Alliance Policy on Housing Requirements for India is binding for audits that take place in India on or after July 1, 2017 based on the 2017 Sustainable Agriculture Standard and its related standards and policy documents:

1. The following people have the right to receive housing from the farm management and group administrator in compliance with Critical Criterion 4.13:
 - a. Every worker and its family residing in the plantation;
 - b. Every worker and its family residing outside the plantation, who has put in six months of continuous service in such plantation and who has expressed a desire in writing to reside in the plantation, under the condition that the requirement of continuous service of six months under this clause shall not apply to a worker who is a member of the family of a deceased worker who, immediately before his death, was residing in the plantation.
 - c. Family as determined by the PLA includes the worker's spouse, the dependent legitimate and adopted children of the worker who have not completed their eighteenth year and includes, where the worker is a male, his parents dependent upon him.
 - d. One condition to comply with critical criterion 4.13 is that the people covered under clauses 2.3.1.a, 2.3.1.b and 2.3.1.c that live in management provided housing are registered by the farm management or group administration. This register may be based on the contract or arrangement between plantations and workers upon the provision of housing that rules the condition of use of the housing.
2. Critical criterion 4.13 and continuous improvement criteria 4.28 Level C and 4.30 Level B do not apply to housing that management provides to workers and their families as determined by clauses 2.3.1.a, 2.3.1.b and 2.3.1.c.
3. Critical criterion 4.13 and continuous improvement criteria 4.28 Level C and 4.30 Level B do not apply either to housing owned by workers or smallholders, or to unauthorized or unsanctioned extensions or modifications to originally provided housing.
4. Some estates provide lower quality housing to temporary workers than to permanent workers and their families. This situation is not discrimination in the sense of critical criterion 4.3, although these housings may not comply with the Plantation Labor Act.