

Fair for Life Revision 2013: Rationale, Scope and Timeline

According to Fair for Life Procedures for Programme Revision and Governance Version Feb. 2013

Rationale

In the last complete standard revision 2010 (resulting standard version Feb. 2011), various parts of the Fair for Life programme have been modified and strengthened considerably, and several new major compliance requirements (e.g. proof of decent working conditions along the entire chain of custody) have been pioneered with Fair for Life being the first fair trade standard worldwide to set such high expectations along the supply chain.

Practical implementation of the programme by now 180 operations world-wide as well as substantial changes in fair trade schemes that Fair for Life accepts as equivalent resulted in a need for technical minor revision of some parts of the programme for effective and efficient implementation.

Planned Scope of the revision

For this minor revision only Modules 1 and 4 will be revised (and the 0. Fair for Life Programme document updated accordingly) with focus on improving the following aspects:

Control & Labelling Requirements (Module 1)

- For Life logo indications and labelling requirements; additional Fair for Life logo version negative print (slight modifications to logo versions and compulsory indications on product labels)
- Control requirements for Fair for Life brand holders (incl. exceptions)
- Audit procedures: update after review against GSCP methodology
- Grievance and public complaints procedures
- Fair for Life rating publication on the Fair for life website (compulsory, or at least compulsory minimum information statement to be published?)
- Annex 2 list of equivalent schemes
- Annex 3-5 composition rules for multi-ingredient products (improve clarity; consistency with compulsory labelling indications in main part of Module 1)

Fair for Life Handler (Module 4)

- Updated guidance on procedures and necessary information in case of purchase from other fair trade schemes
- Review handler criteria
- Review chapter on social responsibility and permitted proofs of decent labour practices, including the IMO verification of responsible labour practices option.

Revision Steps and Time Line

08. Feb 2013	Email to all FFL operations and close partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on process and timeline • Information on scope of revision and summary of intended revisions • invitation to provide comments in the process
Feb- End March	Preparation of 1st draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • brief stakeholder mapping and update stakeholder consultation list • find members for FFL stakeholder standard advisory committee, start discussion on selected issue • review and revision Modules 1&4
12 April 2013	Stakeholder consultation 1st draft revision modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all FFL operations and others on stakeholder consultation list • consultation period: 45 days until 27 May • Finalizing set up of FFL stakeholder advisory committee; initial discussions
27. May 2013	1st consultation closed; preparation of 2nd draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in consultation with FFL stakeholder advisory committee • compilation of comments and how they are addressed
3 July 2013	Stakeholder consultation 2nd draft revision modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation period: 45 days until 18 August
18 Aug 2013	Stakeholder consultation closed; Preparation of final standard documents
15 Oct 2013	New final documents to be published; use for all audits from January 2014 onwards

Members of the relevant committees for this revision (see FFL Programme Revision Procedures):

FFL Revision Technical Committee :

Florentine Meinshausen (FFL programme manager)
Teresa Blanco (Fair for Life auditor, organic and fair trade expert)
Julia Edmaier (Head of dept 5, IMO)
Philipp Wagner (Deputy head of dep. 5, IMO)

FFL Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

Coordinator: Teresa Blanco
Members to be appointed in the coming weeks, representing different stakeholder groups (producers, workers, handlers, fair trade and labour right support organisations, consumer organisations), see FFL Stakeholder Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

FFL Standard Committee

Franz Augstburger (Bio-Foundation Switzerland)
Teresa Blanco (Fair for Life auditor, organic and fair trade expert)
Florentine Meinshausen (Fair for Life Programme manager)

(The standard committee is bound to consider the recommendations by the stakeholder committee , and will provide written public justification if final decisions are different to recommendations by the stakeholder committee).