



FAIR FOR LIFE TERMS OF REFERENCE

September 2025

FAIR FOR LIFE'S MISSION



Fair for Life (FFL) is a fair-trade certification system that promotes ethical, fair, and respectful partnerships in supply chains. It is guided by a vision of a world where trade becomes a positive and sustainable force for change, benefiting both people and the environment.

Fair for Life supports producers and workers, especially those at a disadvantage, in becoming actors of their own development through long-term partnerships and meaningful, locally adapted projects.

Launched in 2006, Fair for Life is an **international standard applicable across several sectors.** It provides a **comprehensive framework** that enables all actors in a supply chain to translate fair trade principles into concrete, accountable, and context-sensitive actions.

SCOPE OF THE STANDARD

The Fair for Life Standard applies to the production, processing, and trade of goods made from:



Natural raw materials crops, wild plants, livestock, beekeeping fisheries and aquaculture, sea salt, etc.

Materials used in handicraft 



In accordance with its principles **some products cannot be Fair for Life certified** including but not limited to: products derived from mining; products made from endangered or threatened species; non-recycled metal materials; leather treated with harmful substances; parts of archaeological or historical monuments.

CERTIFIED PRODUCT GROUPS



Certain high-risk sectors such as Aquaculture, Fisheries, Industrial textile and leather as well as Household goods require **compliance with additional environmental or consumer safety standards** (e.g., MSC, OEKO-TEX, GOTS).

SECTORS

Fair for Life has **global applicability** and does not restrict certification based on location. It equally applies to workers in **both economically developed and less developed countries** who could benefit from improved conditions related to fair trade principles.

ELIGIBILITY

In addition to defining the broad scope of application of Fair for Life, an **eligibility check** serves as a verification step to ensure that an operator can indeed be considered for certification. It confirms that specific prerequisites, defined as eligibility criteria, are met both before and after application.

These criteria cover critical issues aligned with the **core values and strategic orientations** of the standard. The purpose of the eligibility check is to ensure that companies or organizations demonstrate a **genuine interest in and commitment to fair, ethical, social, and environmental values**.



FAIR FOR LIFE'S ADDED VALUE

Fair for Life stands out through its **holistic approach**: it **certifies the entire value chain, from production to final product**, ensuring consistency and **traceability** throughout. Unlike many other standards that focus on specific segments or actors, Fair for Life is applicable across a wide range of sectors and commodities. Its **progressive and continuous improvement model** further enhances its relevance, encouraging certified operations to go beyond compliance and steadily raise their social and environmental performance.



INTENDED SUSTAINABILITY OUTCOMES

Fair for Life supports the **development of responsible and equitable supply chains by defining clear and consistent requirements** for each actor. Through its core requirements and assurance mechanisms, Fair for Life aims to ensure five key impacts.



DIGNIFIED AND PROSPEROUS LIVELIHOODS



Workers benefit from safe, respectful, and equitable conditions with fair compensation, enabling them and their families to achieve financial security and prosperous livelihoods.

EQUITY IN SUPPLY CHAIN

Trade systems evolve toward fairer distribution of power and value, where producers and workers gain influence, recognition, and benefit from a just share of the wealth generated.



SELF-DETERMINATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Local communities are empowered to shape their own sustainable development pathways, supported by inclusive participation, and increased social capital.

SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS

Negative impacts of production are reduced, while ecosystems and communities strengthen their capacity to adapt to environmental and climate-related challenges.



TRANSPARENT AND TRUST-BASED SUPPLY CHAINS



Trade relationships are grounded in transparency and accountability fostering trust between consumers and brands, enabling responsible choices and ethical oversight.

The detailed strategies, intended outcomes, and impacts of Fair for Life, in line with its vision and mission, are presented in our ***Theory of change*** available for reading on our **[website](#)**.



INTEROPERABILITY WITH OTHER CERTIFICATION

Fair for Life works within a **diverse ecosystem of sustainability and fair trade labels** and recognizes both the advantages of alignment and the challenges of multi-labeling for businesses.

RECOGNITION SYSTEM

With regards to sourcing, the Standard can adopt a **recognition approach towards other existing fair trade certification** schemes, wherever the latter cover the same overall principles and the control measures applied are comparable.

EQUIVALENCE SYSTEM

With regards to operations demonstrating their own social and environmental performance, **other standards can be used as approved alternatives to satisfy specific criteria**, within the framework of an equivalence system. The differentiating elements of the Fair for Life standard are verified as part of the certification process through a dedicated audit.

Both systems, along with their specific conditions, are detailed in the annexes of the Fair for Life standard.



SUPERVISION SYSTEMS

To ensure effective implementation, the standard's requirements are supported by **supervision systems** that include rigorous mechanisms, while remaining adaptable to diverse local contexts, cultures, and traditions. These mechanisms are implemented by the **certification body Ecocert**, which is responsible for evaluating compliance with the standard.

Fair for Life applies two supervision mechanisms based on supply chain role:



Certified entities Subject to regular audits
Producers, Fair Trade Partners, Brand Holders

Registered entities Exempted from regular audits based on role and risk
Conveyors, Traders, Subcontractors



SUSTAINABILITY CLAIMS

Upon successful implementation and certification, Fair for Life will enable organizations to make credible claims regarding:

1 Commitment to ethical and fair-trade partnerships

2 Respect for human rights and decent working conditions across their operations and FFL sourced material

3 Environmental sustainability across their operations and FFL sourced material

4 Transparent, traceable, and socially responsible supply chains

5 Engagement with local communities and contribution to sustainable development

These claims will continue to be supported by **rigorous verification** and will align with **consumer expectations for fair-trade products**.