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Background

Woolworths Group's purpose is to create better experiences together for a better tomorrow. Aligned with our goal to positively impact our planet, we're working to make it easier for customers to make sustainable choices by aiming to source commodities in a responsible manner, supporting more positive outcomes for nature and communities.

Our approach to deforestation is two fold, focusing on a no-deforestation approach for our primary deforestation-linked commodities (palm oil; cocoa; soy in stockfeed; beef (Australia) and paper, pulp & timber) and a net-zero approach for our other commodities which still pose a deforestation risk (coffee, tea, soy (in food) and cane sugar).

We intend to source these commodities in an environmentally and socially responsible manner ensuring they are:

- Aligned to Net-Zero Deforestation,
- Meeting legal requirements
- Respecting the human rights of all workers in its supply chain

This policy supports the Woolworths 2025 Sustainability Plan by outlining minimum sourcing standards for tea, coffee, soy (in food) and cane sugar in our Woolworths Own Brand supply chains, and works alongside the [Woolworths Group No-Deforestation Policy](#) for our other high risk commodities.

Where this policy cannot be adhered to, an exemption will be required. For further information on applying for an exemption please contact Woolworths Group Sustainability at sustainablesourcing@woolworths.com.au

Scope

Tea

All Woolworths Own Brand products containing tea must be from independently certified sources such as Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance, this includes:

- Teabags
- Loose-leaf tea
- Tea as an ingredient contained in Woolworths Own Brand products (E.g. Iced Tea)

Coffee

All Woolworths Own Brand products containing coffee must be from independently certified sources such as Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance, this includes:

- Whole/ground/granulated/freeze-dried beans
- Machine capsules/pods (which contain ground beans)
- Powdered coffee sachets (Cappuccino/Latte)
- Coffee as an ingredient contained in Woolworths Own Brand product (E.g. Tiramisu)

Cane Sugar

All Woolworths Own Brand sugar sold as a product must be Bonsucro or Fairtrade certified, this includes:

- Boxes/bags solely containing sugar (from sugarcane)

We encourage sugar used as an ingredient to come from certified sources where possible.

Soy (in food)

All Woolworths Own Brand food products containing soy must be from either low risk regions (ie outside of South America) or, when sourced from within South America, must be independently certified. Products containing Soy derivatives are also strongly encouraged to meet these requirements.

Any product, regardless of the country of origin, where soy is a characterising ingredient, requires full chain of custody certification.

Suitable independent certifications include:

- Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)
- ISCC PLUS (ISCC 202) with voluntary add-ons 202-01 and 202-02
- ProTerra
- Organic certification (organic certification is only accepted when the country of origin is low risk)

Where soy is not a characterising ingredient and is sourced from a low risk region, independent certification is not required. The country of origin for soy must be entered correctly within the product data systems.

Low Volume Suppliers

Suppliers of Woolworths Own Brand products containing a total annual projected use of less than one metric tonne of tea or coffee must purchase certified sustainable ingredients according to the above-prescribed certifications. Low volume suppliers are not required to supply independently certified products but must purchase independently certified ingredients.

High Volume Suppliers

Suppliers of Woolworths Own Brand products containing a total annual projected use of more than one metric tonne of tea or coffee must supply independently certified products according to the above-prescribed certifications.

Definitions

Bonsucro: A global membership organisation that promotes sustainable sugarcane production, processing and trade around the world.

Fairtrade: Fairtrade sets social, economic and environmental standards for both companies and the farmers and workers. For farmers and workers, the standards include protection of workers' rights and the environment, for companies they include the payment of the Fairtrade Minimum Price and an additional Fairtrade Premium to invest in business or community projects of the community's choice.

Characterising Ingredient: Where the commodity is a large component of the product or the defining ingredient of the product

Independently Certified Product: Products supplied by a supplier actively meeting the certification requirements of one of the prescribed schemes in this policy.

Independently Certified Supplier: Supplier that is certified against the Chain of Custody standards prescribed in this policy.

Independently Certified Source: Where in-scope commodity can be traced to a sustainable source certified against requirements of one of the prescribed schemes in this policy.

Own Brand - For the purposes of this Policy, own brand is defined as products where Woolworths Group is substantively involved in the design and/or development of the product and/or has given material direction as to the product's composition. This typically includes products and or/packaging with Woolworths Group business name and/or address on pack.

Rainforest Alliance: An international non-profit organization working at the intersection of business, agriculture, and forests to make responsible business the new normal. Aims to protect forests, improve the livelihoods of farmers and forest communities, promote their human rights, and help them mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis.

High Risk - Sourced from a country/region/plantation with known issues surrounding deforestation, alternatively high risk can be determined where the area cannot be determined.

Low Risk (Soy): Sourced from a country/region/plantation as listed and defined in [The Sustainable Soy Sourcing Guidelines](#) from Consumer Goods Forum

International Carbon and Sustainability Certification (ISCC) - promotes biomass, bio-energy and social sustainability among farmers and processors with the objective to respect climate and the environment. ISCC certification procedures are oriented towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, sustainable use of land and the protection of natural habitats.

Net-Zero Deforestation - No net loss in forest area between two points in time, taking into account both losses from deforestation and gains from forest regeneration and restoration. Zero net deforestation would typically be assessed with reference to a given geographic area (e.g., a district, state, nation, or globe) and a given timeframe. (Accountability Framework Initiative, 2019)

Primary Deforestation-Linked Commodities: Commodities assessed, in accordance with global standards, as presenting the most material risk of deforestation within a supply chain. For Woolworths these are paper, pulp & timber (packaging and products), palm oil (food and non-food), cocoa, soy (in stockfeed) and fresh beef.

ProTerra - a not-for-profit organisation aiming to support food and feed industries in sourcing sustainably produced, non-genetically modified grains, cereals and derivatives and in particular, soy.

Roundtable on Responsible Soy - a non profit organisation promoting the growth of production, trade, and use of responsible soy. It works through cooperation with those in, and related to the soy value chain, from production to consumption, to facilitate a dialogue and develop solutions to address issues in the sector in a way that is economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally sound.