



4C System Update 5

06 April 2020

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1. Phase out of the Rainforest Alliance (RA) certificate recognition

We would like to inform you that the Rainforest Alliance (RA) certificate recognition will be terminated. This decision was taken considering several aspects:

- Low demand for the RA certificate recognition observed in the last years
- Several innovations and improvements incorporated in the 4C System recently, resulting from the implementation of the new 4C approach
- In light of the current standard revision process in course within the merger of Rainforest and Utz

Therefore, please note the practical actions that are valid from today onwards.

1. The corresponding certificates valid on today's date, remain active and will remain listed in the 4C portal (4C certificates) until the expiration date. It is worth mentioning that the Annual Updates (AUs) remain an obligatory requirement for the maintenance of the 4C certificates.
2. Applications for the RA recognition received from today onwards will not be processed, which means that certificates based on RA certificates will no longer be issued. This decision applies to both new applications and renewals of valid certificates.

Those interested in continuing to certify production and operations in accordance with the 4C Code of Conduct may do so through the regular 4C audit and certification procedure. The 4C team will be happy to provide the necessary instructions.

Thank you for your understanding and we remain at your disposal to clarify any doubts.

2. Reminder: Survey on 4C impact

As communicated in the [System Update sent on 10 March 2020](#), we are currently working on our first Impact Report, and in order to include voices and impressions at first hand, we kindly ask for the support of all Certification Bodies (CBs) and Managing Entities (MEs) to participate in a quick online survey to share their experience on the impact of 4C. The survey is anonymous and takes a maximum of five minutes of your time.

The survey for MEs can be found [here](#).

The survey for CBs can be found [here](#).



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We would be very pleased about a large number of participants in the survey, as it is of great importance to us to learn about the impacts our 4C System users have experienced.

Your participation would be highly appreciated, and we thank you very much in advance for your support!

3. Audit checklist translations

4C has translated the 4C audit checklist into Spanish, Portuguese and Vietnamese. The translated versions can be found in the [4C portal](#).

Please keep in mind that for documents translated into languages other than English, the English version remains the definitive version and 4C accepts no responsibility for any discrepancies between translated versions. Furthermore, 4C accepts the audit report only if it is filled out in English, Spanish or Portuguese. In case of complaints, appeals or any other formal dispute, CBs must provide the complete report translated into English.

4. Addition: Important notification on exceptions due to Corona virus

In addition to our information provided in the 4C System Update from 10 March 2020 to allow recertification audits to be conducted on a desk basis in exceptional cases due to the outbreak of the Corona virus, we would like to clarify the exceptional procedure for initial, addendum and follow-up audits:

Initial certification audits:

If the harvest season takes place from January to end of June, certification audits should be postponed to the second semester and a follow-up audit must be conducted in the 1st semester of 2021 during the harvest season. If the harvest season takes place from July to end of December, certification audits should be planned and conducted during the harvest season according to the current audit procedures.

Addendum and follow-up audits:

The same procedure as described for recertification audits applies, with the exception that addendum on-site audits not necessarily have to be conducted during the harvest season at a later stage but can also be conducted off-harvest.

Important: Please note that the above-mentioned procedures can only be applied in exceptional cases if the situation does not allow for an on-site audit and respective justifying documents can be provided. Further, this exception can only be applied if there are no significant changes in the 4C Unit with regard to the set-up and/or size of the 4C Unit.

