

Progressive Entry Level for the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production

Version 1.0

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Preamble

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production, developed in 2010 after a multi-stakeholder process, was created to guide soybean producers towards a responsible production.

RTRS' certified producers are required to implement good agricultural practices that include zero tillage, balanced fertilization and crop rotation, amongst other. At the same time, as corn is the typical crop used to rotate with soy in most countries where RTRS is present, the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production is considered to be a good complement to the existent Soy Production Standard.

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production includes applicable requirements for soy related issues -mainly farming issues-, but also covers social, environmental and economic issues that are potentially applicable to the production of other crops.

In 2015 RTRS developed a first approach towards the RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production and, in 2019, the RTRS Executive Board decided to continue with the process in order to launch this new certification scheme in 2020.

The RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production is intended to be applicable for all RTRS certified soybean producers that are willing to include their corn production in their certified farms under this new scope.

The "RTRS Standard for Responsible Corn Production" is supplementary to the RTRS soy certification, meaning that cannot be certified independently of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production.

Classification of the indicators within each criteria

The RTRS has classified the indicators in 3 different categories: See content of table below point 6

Category
Immediate Compliance Indicators
Short – Term Compliance Indicators
Mid- Term Compliance Indicators

Principle 1

Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices

	Guidance	
1.1. Principles, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.		
1.2. Corn production should comply with all laws in common with soy production, and in case of existence of specific regulations applicable to corn production will also have to demonstrate compliance with applicable laws	<p>Guidance 1.2 Example of a regulation applicable for corn production includes but it is not limited to “non planting unauthorized biotechnological events”</p>	

Principle 2

Responsible Labour Conditions

	Guidance	
<p>2.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.</p>		See PEL of each indicator
<p>2.2. Permanent (direct and indirect) and seasonal workers that only perform activities at the corn production shall be included in the audit, specially training records and documentation if the audit does not take place during the peak season.</p>	<p>Guidance 2.2 Examples of this include but it is not limited to irrigation, equipment management; corn seeds production; among others.</p>	
<p>2.3. Pre-harvesting intervals should be respected, as well as all re-entry periods, to guarantee, not only the safety of products but also the safety of personnel in the field. Measures are taken to prevent people from entering into plots that have been sprayed with agrochemicals</p>	<p>Guidance 2.3 Pre-harvesting interval is the wait time between a pesticide application and when a crop can be harvested. Re-entry period is the minimum amount of time that must pass between the time a pesticide was applied to an area or crop and the time that people can go into that area without protective clothing and equipment. A communication mechanism shall be</p>	

	<p>established to report plots sprayed with agrochemicals, date of application as well as pre-harvesting interval and re-entry period. In the case of seed production, signposts should have to be placed indicating : product applied, date of application, re-entry period and PPE to be used in case of entry.</p>	
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Principle 3

Responsible Community Relations

	Guidance	
<p>3.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.</p>		

Principle 4

Environmental Responsibility

	Guidance	
4.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.		
4.2. Record keeping of the total direct use of fossil fuels in time and volume per hectare and product unit for all activities related to corn production.		

Principle 5

Good Agricultural Practices

	Guidance	
<p>5.1. Principle, Criteria and Indicators in the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production are fulfilled at main audit and applicable to corn production.</p>		
<p>5.2. In the case of irrigation being used for the corn production, the producer shall document the calculation of water needs, as well as the water quality.</p>	<p>Guidance 5.2 Registry of date and volume per irrigation unit shall be kept. Licenses shall be checked, and irrigation volumes should not exceed the allowed amounts. Licenses should include the limits (max-min) of water that can be used. This may vary between countries and state/province.</p>	
<p>5.3. When BT corn is sown, producers must follow the breeder's recommendation for the percentage of the lot surface that shall be left as refuges (non-BT blocks to avoid resistance pressure).</p>	<p>Guidance 5.3 The percentage may vary according to the legislation of the different countries and the suggestions of the breeders. If the percentage of refuge seeds is included in the seedbag and it is in accordance to the correspondent legislation, it may be used.</p>	
<p>5.4. Harvest machinery shall be cleaned prior to transportation (prior to entry and downstream) to help weed and pest control.</p>	<p>Guidance 5.4 Cleaning shall occur between farms of different producers.</p>	

<p>5.5. In countries where Paraquat can be used legally in agricultural production, producers are required to implement a program of progressive reduction of Paraquat over time. The implemented Integrated Crop Management Plans shall specify reduction targets for Paraquat and its phaseout, which shall be implemented as soon as possible and not later than 2020. The use of Paraquat is prohibited from January 2021.</p>		
<p>5.6. Evidence of adoption fire prevention and control measures, good corn harvesting practices to reduce the risk of fire.</p>	<p>Guidance 5.6 Consider and prioritize the best periods and training for good fire prevention practices. Development of firebreaks in the property. Fire extinguishers in machinery, cleaning of machines. This indicator is subject to risk analysis adapted to the region.</p>	



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