

WAITROSE & PARTNERS COMMITMENT TO RESPONSIBLE SOYA

1. Targets

Waitrose & Partners sources 100% of the soya used in animal feed for the production of own-brand meat and farmed fish products, milk, and eggs through organic or certified sustainable sources.

Waitrose & Partners will achieve 100% deforestation and conversion free soya in its own brand supply chains by the end of 2025, as part of the [UK Soy Manifesto collective industry commitment](#).

2. Scope

Scope includes:

- Own-brand products
- Soya used as animal feed in the primary production of meat, poultry, farmed fish, shell eggs and liquid milk and cream
- Soya used as animal feed in the production of meat, poultry, farmed fish, eggs, and dairy used as an ingredient in processed food

Scope excludes:

- Branded products
- Soya used for animal by-products e.g. gelatine
- Soya used for meat or fish-based stocks

3. Standards

All soya for non-organic products must be certified according to one of the following standards:

- The Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS)
- ProTerra
- Danube Soya (Donau Soja) or European Soya
- ISCC PLUS (ISCC 202) with voluntary add-ons 202-01 (environmental management & biodiversity) and 202-02 (classified chemicals)
- Cargill 'Triple S'
- Cefetra 'Certified Responsible Soya'

We specify these standards based on their ability to deliver on the following Waitrose & Partners policy goals and to deliver against Waitrose & Partners commitments under the Retailer Soya Group sourcing guidelines, the Consumer Goods Forum sourcing guidelines, and the UK Roundtable for Sustainable Soya membership requirements.

These standards have also been benchmarked by FEFAC to ensure that they deliver:

1. Support for relevant legal requirements in the country of origin, for example, the Brazilian Forest Code, and support for public/private initiatives that aim to drive continuous improvement in soya production standards, including the Amazon Soya Moratorium and the Cerrado Manifesto.

2. Soya that is produced in a manner which:

- Is free from both legal and illegal sources of deforestation and conversion (i.e. that in areas at high risk of deforestation, production is prohibited on land with native forests, native vegetation and high conservation value landscapes, with a conversion cut-off date not later than 2009.)
- Is aligned with good agricultural practices, including responsible soil management and responsible chemical management.
- Respects human rights, including the prohibition of forced/child labour, and respect of land rights.

3. The requirement for independent 3rd party verification of sustainability standards

4. Supply chain

We require suppliers to source physically certified soya (i.e. from segregated or mass balance supply chains) wherever available and practicable. Where physical supply is not yet viable, we permit the use of RTRS soya credits.

5. Landscape-based approaches

We recognise that certification is one very important approach to sourcing sustainable soya, and that an industry-wide shift to sustainable soya production will likely require additional routes to change. As such, suppliers are also encouraged to explore sourcing from jurisdictional or landscape-based approaches provided that they offer independent verification of legal compliance and deforestation-free production by approved third-party audit providers.

6. Organic soya

All soya for certified organic products must be procured according to organic regulations, and sourcing organic soya from within Europe is strongly encouraged. In addition, all organic soya is sourced from countries assessed as 'low risk' for deforestation.

7. Definitions

Unless otherwise specified, definitions in this policy align with those of the [Accountability Framework Initiative](#).

Deforestation:

Loss of natural forest as a result of: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation.

- This definition pertains to no-deforestation supply chain commitments, which generally focus on preventing the conversion of natural forests.
- Severe degradation (scenario iii in the definition) constitutes deforestation even if the land is not subsequently used for a non-forest land use.
- Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal.
- The Accountability Framework's definition of deforestation signifies "gross deforestation" of natural forest where "gross" is used in the sense of "total; aggregate; without deduction for reforestation or other offset."

Conversion:

Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function.

- Deforestation is one form of conversion (conversion of natural forests).
- Conversion includes severe degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in substantial and sustained change in the ecosystem's former species composition, structure, or function.
- Change to natural ecosystems that meets this definition is considered to be conversion regardless of whether or not it is legal