

An aerial photograph of a vast palm oil plantation. The image shows a dense, repeating pattern of palm trees from a high angle. A narrow, reddish-brown dirt road cuts through the center of the plantation. A small, dark-colored car is parked on this road, providing a sense of scale to the massive expanse of the forest.

Sainsbury's

Palm Oil Policy

Our Policy on Palm Oil

Our Scope

- Section 1. Our Position
- Section 2. Statement of Intent
- Section 3. Our Approach
- Section 4. Roles and Responsibilities
- Section 5. Governance
- Section 6. Definitions, external links and FAQs

Our Scope

At Sainsbury's, we seek to build resilient supply chains by sourcing products ethically and sustainably.

This document details our position and sourcing requirements for all products that contain palm oil or palm derived ingredients. It applies to all suppliers in food, non-food grocery and General Merchandise. Products in scope include bakery & food services, dairy, frozen, Food for later, meat, fish & poultry, produce, health & beauty, packaged & speciality, household, baby & pet, impulse and general merchandise.

The following products are out of scope of this document:

- Branded products
- Palm oil, palm oil derivatives and palm kernel expeller used in animal feed
- Processing aids

This sustainable sourcing policy should be read alongside our Supplier Handbook. Depending on where in the business the products are sold, the General Merchandise Sustainability Guidelines or the Responsible Sourcing Manual should also be consulted.

The policy statements outlined in this document are in addition to all applicable legislation. Sainsbury's suppliers must ensure they meet all requirements laid down in law at the point of manufacture and where the products are finally sold to the customer.

Whilst this policy is intended to help suppliers provide products suitable for Sainsbury's own-brand, they do not absolve suppliers of their responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for their products.



SECTION ONE

Our Position

Palm oil is the most versatile and widely produced vegetable oil. It is found across food, non - food and general merchandise products and when produced responsibly, it can support millions of livelihoods whilst minimising the demand on natural ecosystems. It is the most land-efficient oil crop, with a much greater yield per hectare than alternative oils. However, palm oil continues to be a significant threat to some of the world's most biodiverse forests. It can only be grown in tropical regions, and the expansion of production over past decades has been a major driver of deforestation and habitat loss. This is a challenge that the entire industry must address, and we have an important role to play in tackling this challenge at an industry level.

Globally, forests constitute the largest and most significant ecosystems and are a key resource for local communities. Yet, despite their importance, there continues to be a significant depletion of forests year on year. The demand for forest products is anticipated to increase, emphasising the need for sustainable management of these vital resources for future generations.

SECTION TWO

Statements of intent

Through our [Plan for Better](#) commitments, we are committed to sourcing Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) forest-risk commodities by 2025, including palm oil. Certification of palm oil enables us to mitigate against environmental issues during harvesting and traceability information ensures our palm oil products are sourced from deforestation and conversion free land.

- 100% of the palm oil in products will be certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil and in line with relevant legislation
- 100% of the palm oil in products will be traceable to origin by 31st December 2025



Our Approach

Palm oil is a driver of deforestation in tropical forests. By sourcing RSPO certified palm oil, Sainsbury's can prevent and mitigate its impact on deforestation in these areas.

	General requirements
1.	- All palm-derived ingredients in our products must be sourced to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) sustainability standard - Where possible all straight palm oil (i.e. crude palm oil) used as an ingredient must be Segregated Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (SCPO) - Full chain of custody documentation is required, meaning that the ingredients used must be proven to be from sustainable sources, also importantly, the final product supplier must have membership of RSPO. - We have a preference for suppliers with a commitment to Deforestation and Conversion Free supply chains across their business.
	Traceability requirements
2.	- Suppliers must report annually to Sainsbury's on their use of palm derived ingredients and processing aids in own brand products and their sustainability - Suppliers must specify the RSPO supply chain model and the country of harvest for every palm derived ingredient - Suppliers must submit information on certification and traceability to our third party, 3Keel, on an annual basis.
	Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems*
3.	- Palm oil must not be harvested illegally in contravention of legislation in the country of harvest - Only plantation material grown on land converted prior to 31st December 2020 will be accepted, unless preceded by existing standards or legislation - There must be no deforestation of High Conservation Value (HCV) forests - Species listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) appendices must be traded in compliance with the appropriate licencing system - Species categorised on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as 'CR – Critically Endangered', 'EN – Endangered', or 'VU – Vulnerable' must not be sourced
	Respect for human rights*
4.	Before any activity that may affect indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, land, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security, their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be secured
	Alternative & recycled raw material
5.	We support the use of new materials that might replace palm oil. If an alternative raw material is used, this shall be discussed and approved with the Sainsbury's Technologist prior to use in any Sainsbury's products and on a case by case basis.

SECTION FOUR

Roles and Responsibilities

Suppliers:

- All suppliers will provide goods that meet the corporate policy requirements
- Inform Sainsbury's technologist of any products that have been converted to sustainable palm oil and amend specification on EVOLVE to reflect this

Sainsbury's:

- Sainsbury's is accountable for informing suppliers of the policy and ensuring products meet corporate policy requirement

3Keel

- 3Keel will conduct an annual survey to validate the sustainability of Sainsbury's palm oil supply chain

SECTION FIVE

Governance

This policy has been agreed by the GM Steering Committee and will be reviewed annually by the Head of Environment, or as required. All changes will be communicated to the suppliers.



Definitions

What other definitions might be relevant to your commodity?

Where relevant, our definitions align with [Accountability Framework Initiative \(Afi\)](#)

- **Deforestation:** The loss of natural forest as a result of (i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; (ii) conversion to a plantation; or (ii) severe or sustained degradation.
- **Conversion:** Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in the natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function
- **Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF):** a volume of commodity produced on land that was not subject to conversion or deforestation past a defined cut-off date.
- **Recycled materials:** Timber or timber-based materials proven to be from a preferred post-consumer waste stream.

External links

- [RSPO requirements](#)
- [CITES/IUCN](#)



FAQs

Q. How can I obtain chain of custody certification from the RSPO?

To obtain chain of custody certification suppliers must join the [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#). Information on how to join can be found [here](#).

Q. Where should suppliers upload information on certification?

Suppliers are required to update EVOLVE with the ingredients of the product, the RSPO Chain of Custody certificate details and the claim that the product meets the policy criteria. For more information, please refer to the General Merchandise Sustainability Guidelines or the Responsible Sourcing Manual.

Q. What ingredients could contain palm derivatives?

There are hundreds of different ingredients that could contain palm derivatives. It is advised businesses work with their suppliers for confirmation if any ingredients they use contain palm oil. To support this, the North American Sustainable Palm Oil Network have developed a non-exhaustive list that can help businesses identify which ingredients may contain palm oil or palm kernel oil. It can be found [here](#).



Our Policy on Palm Oil

The information in this document may be supported by other Sainsbury’s Documents.
The information outlined in this document is in addition to all applicable UK and EU legislation.

Sainsbury’s suppliers must ensure they meet all legal and regulatory requirements both at the point of manufacture and where the products are sold to the consumer. Whilst this document is intended to help you supply products suitable for the Sainsbury’s brand (i.e. all brands owned by Sainsbury’s), they do not absolve you of your responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for your products or the products you supply.

For the purpose of this document Sainsbury’s means Sainsbury’s Supermarkets Limited and Argos Limited only. Sainsbury’s Argos is the trading name of both:

- 1)Argos Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA.. Registered number: 01081551
- 2) Sainsbury’s Supermarket Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA. and Sainsbury’s Supermarkets (NI) Ltd, Upper Galwally, Belfast, BT8 6FX Registered number: 03261722

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