

Sainsbury's Non-Timber Forest Products (Bamboo) Policy

Our Policy on Non-Timber Forest Products

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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 suppliers in food, non-food grocery and General Merchandise across all product areas own-brand and licensed products containing bamboo.

The following products are out of scope of this document:

- Packaging
- Rubber (see rubber policy)
- Rattan
- Cork
- Hemp
- Fruit woods (see timber policy)
- Willow, bullrush and grasses
- Charcoal (see timber policy)
- Bamboo as a fibre (see Manmade Cellulosic Fibre policy)
- Products which contain under 2% bamboo of the total weight

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, the Clothing 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.



Our Position

Across our business, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are used in a wide range of products from cosmetics to furniture. Production of bamboo is linked to the clearance of native vegetation and forests for the establishment of plantations due to the lack of sustainable management practices. Furthermore, the processing of these products can involve the use of toxic chemicals which can damage local ecosystems if released into waterways.

Although volumes across our business are relatively small, production and use of bamboo is expected to expand. We need to source these commodities sustainably to ensure we prevent deforestation and support sustainable production and management.

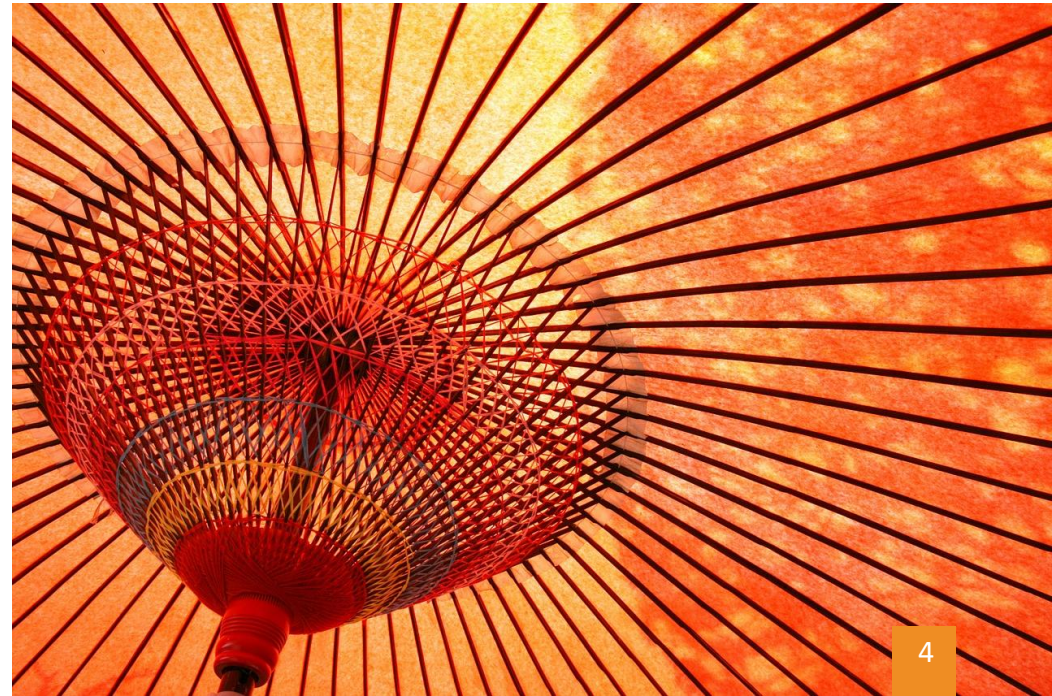
Globally, forests constitute the largest and most significant ecosystems and are a key resource for local communities. Yet, despite their importance, there continues to be a significant depletion of forests year on year. The demand for forest products is anticipated to increase, emphasising the need 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 non-timber forest products.

- 100% of our bamboo products will be sourced to an independent sustainability standard by 30th December 2025
- 100% of bamboo products will be traceable to country origin by 30th December 2025



Our Approach

Production of non-timber forest products can be linked to deforestation and land conversion which can lead to wider environmental consequences including biodiversity loss. Through certification and traceability data, we can ensure our supply chains do not contribute to these issues and monitor progress towards our DCF commitment. The below requirements in each section must be met to mitigate the associated risks:

General requirements	
1.	Products containing bamboo must be sourced to the below sustainability standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) (Approved suppliers can be sourced using the FSC Certificates Public Dashboard) Approved 3rd Party schemes on an ad-hoc basis
Traceability requirements	
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suppliers should submit traceability information, including country of origin and evidence of certification, as requested via our third party, Track Record Global. Further guidance on validating sustainable supply chains can be found in the General Merchandise Sustainability Guidelines or the Responsible Sourcing Manual. Technical colleagues can refer to our Guide to Validating Sustainable Supply Chains on how to submit traceability information to Track Record Global.
Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems*	
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bamboo must not be harvested illegally in contravention of legislation in the country of harvest Only plantation material grown on land converted prior to 30 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We support the use of new materials that might replace bamboo. If an alternative raw material is used, this shall be discussed and approved with the Technical Manager at Sainsbury's on an ad-hoc basis

*Based on definitions agreed by the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI). Requirements 3 & 4 are included within the [FSC Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#). If using an approved 3rd Party Scheme please refer to CR&S and Technical Team SME for advice on how to provide additional assurance on these requirements.

SECTION FOUR

Roles and Responsibilities

Suppliers:

- All suppliers will provide goods that meet the corporate policy
- Suppliers will provide information to Track Record Global as requested to enable them to carry out assessments on our bamboo supply chain

Sainsbury's:

- Sainsbury's is accountable for informing TRG of in scope products via the new line product trackers

3rd parties e.g. data collection companies

- TRG will validate sustainability claims on our bamboo supply chains

SECTION FIVE

Governance

This policy has been agreed by Food Technical Governance and the GM Steering Committee and will be reviewed annually by the Head of Environment, or Head of Technical, Home as required. All changes will be communicated to the suppliers. For Food, requirements for suppliers will be captured in the Responsible Sourcing Manual.



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 (iii) 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.

External links

- [FSC and FSC Principles & Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)
- [CITES/IUCN](#)



FAQs

Q. The bamboo used in the product is sustainably sourced as FSC, however the supplier to Sainsbury's Argos does not have their own chain of custody licence, is this acceptable?

A. No, we require the complete supply chain to have a chain of custody, from forest to the end supplier. The only exception to this may be in the case where the supplier is an agent and therefore never takes any physical ownership of the goods. In this scenario (and if the goods are own brand), only the primary manufacturer and the supply chain back to forest is required to hold a valid licence.

Q. What should I do if the supplier cannot meet our sustainability target by the date required?

A. If you have exhausted all options whereby the supplier cannot procure sustainably sourced bamboo; this will require a change in supplier.

Q. The product is sustainably sourced to the FSC scheme, should the accompanying logo be added to the primary and/or tertiary packaging?

A. Yes – as this will then enable us to market the product online, in store, and on in any printed material (Christmas gift guide) as being FSC.

Q. When will you review if other materials should be included?

A. We will review this on an annual basis.

Q. Where can we source FSC bamboo from? Is there a website that can direct us to suppliers?

A. Details of suppliers of FSC bamboo can be found on the [FSC Certificates Public Dashboard](#)

Q. How should we treat plastic containers or utensils which contain bamboo?

Plastic materials in contact with food need to comply with the Materials and Articles in contact with Food Regulations.

Note: Currently bamboo is not permitted in plastic materials or articles in contact with food in UK or EU. For further information please contact your technologist.

Our Policy on Non-Timber Forest Products

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:

- Argos Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA.. Registered number: 01081551
- 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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PLO14-V1	Deforestation Lead, CR&S and Product Technologist, GM Technical and Ethical	Creation of policy	October 2024
PL014-V2	Deforestation Lead, CR&S and Product Technologist, GM Technical and Ethical	Updated to reflect change in Head office Location	June 2025