



Bonsucro sugarcane Chain of Custody certification

Accelerate the sustainable production and uses of sugarcane

Sugarcane is the largest agricultural plant by biomass with many applications to count. Grown in over 100 countries, its production supports millions of people worldwide.

No matter which part of the supply chain you are in and the size or nature of your business: if you are involved with sugarcane, gain Bonsucro Chain of Custody certification to improve your image, achieve sustainability procurement goals and build partnerships to tackle sustainability issues together.

Bonsucro offers a credible metric certification process to demonstrate commitment to environmental and social sustainability in sugarcane. A Bonsucro certificate is internationally recognised and respected.

The [Chain of Custody \(ChoC\) Standard](#) enables brands to trace sugarcane from the origin to the end product and allows them to make sustainability claims about their sugarcane sourcing. It shows that you are sourcing and trading responsibly, and assures that claims of compliance can be tracked along the supply chain.

Compliance with the Standard:

- ensures monitoring of the certified volumes
- enables traceable information to be transferred to the next supply chain step
- allows companies to make on-product claims

The Chain of Custody Standard adheres to **five fundamental principles** to ensure high performance and consistency:



A Bonsucro member can make claims about sustainability in their sugarcane supply chain and use the Bonsucro logo. The Certified Sustainable Sugarcane seal is designed to help with consumer messaging. On pack, it helps to draw consumers' attention to your sustainability credentials. Off pack, it helps show your suppliers and clients that you are part of the global community dedicated to accelerating the sustainable production and uses of sugarcane. It is exclusive for physical products that contain a minimum of 95% Bonsucro certified sugarcane. Learn more from [Bonsucro Claims and Labelling Rules](#).



Tap into our expertise

Preferred by Nature is an international non-profit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate in 100+ countries.

For nearly 30 years, we have been working to foster sustainable land use and responsible trade in forest commodities. We have certified over 2 million ha of agriculture farms and over 800,000 farmers and foresters worldwide.

Our clients include retailers, food producers and traders, multinational multi-site and group certificate holders, as well as small companies and smallholders.

Your sustainability expert

We are a certification body approved to conduct audits for several certification programmes, including schemes, like the [Carbon Footprint Support and Verification Programme](#).

Our work includes the development of practical solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains.

Ready to
get started?



[Learn more](#)



[Arrange certification](#)

We do this through innovative projects, capacity building and sustainability services.

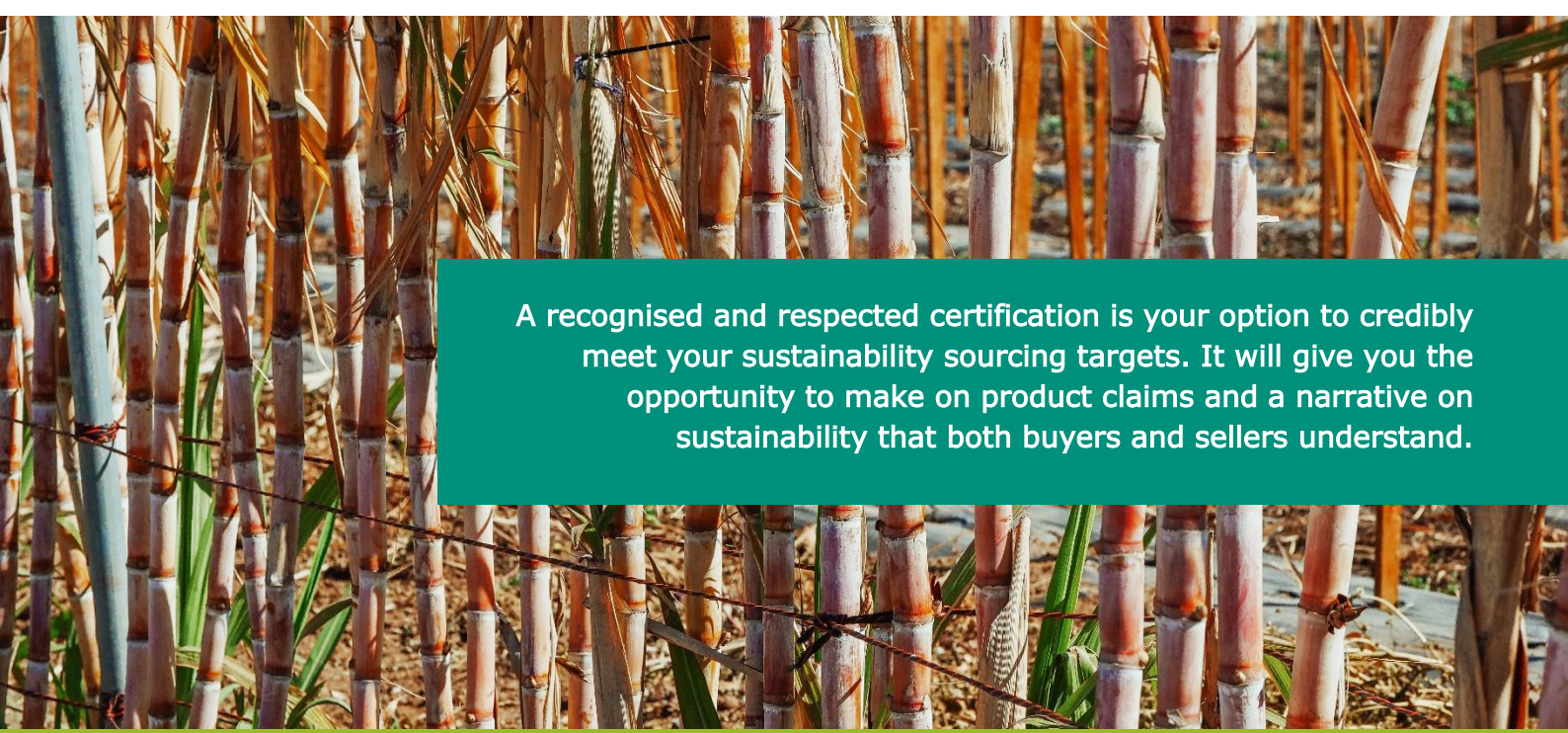
We have created a universal framework to ensure companies and smallholders can optimise their positive impact. Our [Sustainability Framework](#) can put any business, on a different part of the supply chain, on the path - from legal compliance to best practice.

Depending on location in the supply chain, businesses can use the framework in different ways. While highlighting the high-risk areas that need attention, the Sustainability Framework helps businesses filter out low-risk indicators to target their efforts where they will make the most significant impact.

Focus on customer experience

Our aim is to provide you with professional services, delivered on time and of high quality.

We will keep you up to speed on evolving certification requirements through client updates and provide you with the full support that you need to understand and fulfil your certification commitments.



A recognised and respected certification is your option to credibly meet your sustainability sourcing targets. It will give you the opportunity to make on product claims and a narrative on sustainability that both buyers and sellers understand.

Bonsucro Chain of Custody (ChoC) Certification Q&As






What are the key roles and responsibilities within Bonsucro certification?

[Bonsucro](#) is a global multi-stakeholder non-profit organisation that exists to promote sustainable sugarcane production, processing and trade around the world. It supports a community of members in more than 40 countries, from all elements of the sugarcane supply chain, including farmers, millers, traders, buyers and support organisations, and works across all sugarcane products and derivatives – sugar, ethanol, molasses and bagasse in traditional and newer market sectors, from sugar and alcohol to biofuels and bioplastics.

Bonsucro ChoC programme includes a third-party certification process. Preferred by Nature is a certification body licensed to check compliance against the standards set by Bonsucro certification.

What does the certification process entail?

In order to achieve certification with the Bonsucro ChoC Standard, [companies must be members of Bonsucro](#) and be found in full compliance with all Bonsucro Chain of Custody Standard indicators. You may find other valuable tools to help you achieve Bonsucro certification [here](#).

-  Once we receive your request for information, our team will contact you and send the application form. Based on the information you shared, we will provide you with a pricing proposal. Once approved, we will assign a contact person to follow up and discuss with you to arrange audits.
-  After accepting the proposal and signing the [Certification Agreement](#), you need to prepare for the certification by ensuring compliance with all the requirements, that is develop and implement a requirements-based system. This includes assigning responsibilities, developing procedures and training relevant staff.
-  On the agreed dates, we will conduct an audit to check whether your system functions well. This is done through document reviews, field observation and interviews with your staff. The average duration of the initial evaluation audit is one day, though it depends on the size and characteristics of your business's operations. The preliminary results of the audit are presented, discussed and validated with you on the last audit day.
-  After the audit, we prepare a written report describing the audit results and compliance with the critical control points of the certification checklist. Any identified non-conformities are also described and these need to be corrected before the certificate can be issued. The report will be reviewed internally and then submitted to you for any comments.
-  A thorough assessment of the operation's compliance with the certification requirements forms the basis for granting certification. Upon a positive certification decision, the certificate is issued and sent to your company.

What is the cost structure?

The auditing fee depends on the size and complexity of the verified company. Upon evaluating these aspects, your Preferred by Nature contact person will provide you with a proposal specifying the cost structure.

What about impartiality and confidentiality?

Preferred by Nature's Quality Management System includes a number of [policies](#) that allow our organisation to provide assurance services in a credible way in compliance with accreditation requirements. These include [Impartiality Policy](#), which ensures impartiality, transparency and independence in all of our activities, and [Confidentiality Policy](#), describing our rigorous approach to safeguarding confidential data and information provided by our clients.

When is a certification refused?

Certification is refused when Preferred by Nature concludes that the audited company does not meet the Standard's requirements.

How can I maintain my active certification status?

Certification is maintained when the company complies with the conditions and requirements of the certification. Preferred by Nature and/or the scheme owner may conduct additional audits without announcements, for example, if we

have reason to suspect a major breach of the certification rules. We may also carry out random spot audits. During the validity period (3 years), you need to undergo annual audits where we verify your continued compliance. The annual audits will focus on any weaknesses identified during previous evaluations and on your fulfilment of the certification requirements. We help you stay up to speed on the requirements between the audits by providing regular updates on any system changes. If we identify non-conformities in your system during the audits, you need to take appropriate and effective action to address them.

After completing a full certificate validity period, you need to undergo re-assessment (a new full assessment) to remain certified. If the result of the re-assessment is positive, a new certificate is issued including the same certificate registration code as in your previous certificate. Please note that the reassessments cannot be delayed and they must take place prior to the anniversary date of your certificate issuance, otherwise your certificate will be automatically terminated.

When is a certification suspended?

Certification may be suspended for the following reasons: 1. Failure to address one or more non-conformances by the specified timeline, 2. Severe breaches of the certification requirements, 3. Lack of payment of applicable fees and invoices, 4. Lack of willingness to plan and undergo scheduled audits, 5. Force Majeure (e.g. natural disasters that affect the destination, the political unrest that forces to operation shut down, etc.). A suspended certificate may be reinstated when the company has addressed the issues that led to the suspension and we have conducted an audit verifying the compliance within the required timeline.

When is a certification terminated?

A certificate may be terminated for the following reasons: 1. Failure to sufficiently address the issues leading to suspension within the suspension period, 2. Failure to undergo a renewed assessment within the suspension period after addressing the issues leading to suspension, 3. Failure to address one or more non-conformances by the specified timeline, 4. Deliberate fraud or very serious breaches of the certification requirements, 5. Failure to undergo a renewed assessment prior to certificate expiration, 6. Failure to undergo reassessment once the suspension period has reached its deadline. If a certificate has been terminated, the company needs to undergo a renewed assessment to have a new certificate issued. It is not possible to reinstate the previous certificate. After a certificate has been suspended or terminated, the company may not make any claims regarding the conformance with the certification standard(s) and may not sell previously labelled products until certification trademarks are removed.

Can I change the scope of certification?

As a certificate holder, you may expand or change the scope of your certification in conjunction with your annual audit or in between audits. You need to notify Preferred by Nature about any of the following situations which may require formal changes in the scope of your certificate: • Additional product lines which you wish to sell as certified, • Use of new types of inputs not covered by your current scope of certification, • Changes in the system used for controlling claims, • Expansion or removal of sites or production areas covered by the certificate. An additional audit is usually required for scope changes outside the scheduled annual/certification audits. Depending on the nature of the change, the audit may be conducted as an on-site or desk audit.

What are the rights and duties of applicants and clients?

Clients' rights and duties are referred to in the [Certification Agreement](#).

What is the procedure for complaints and appeals?

Disputes are divided into two broad categories: complaints and appeals. All complaints and appeals will be processed using the [Preferred by Nature's Disputes Resolution Policy](#) for complaints management.

What information is provided to third parties?

To check the organisation's compliance with the Standards set in evaluation schemes, including the Bonsucro certification, auditors and certification scheme owners will need access to confidential information. For information provided to third parties, please see item 9.2. and Appendix for Bonsucro in the [Certification Agreement](#).