




Reference Guide to Fair Trade Certifiers and Membership Organizations

Fair trade certifiers and membership organizations all agree on these basic fair trade principles:

- Long-term direct trading relationships
- Prompt payment of fair prices and wages
- No child, forced or otherwise exploited labor
- Workplace non-discrimination, gender equity and freedom of association
- Safe working conditions and reasonable work hours
- Investment in community development projects
- Environmental sustainability
- Traceability and transparency

Fair Trade validation systems can be grouped into three major categories. The table shows their main attributes and several prominent examples.

Category	Key Attributes	Examples
3 rd Party Inspection & Certification	3 rd party certifiers field-inspect growing and processing, possibly trading operations and compare performance against a set of FT standards.	Fair Trade Labeling Organization (FLO) and their national initiatives (TrainsFair USA, Canada); IMO's Fair for Life; Agricultural Justice Project 
Membership Organizations	Organization evaluates FT commitment and practice of companies against its membership criteria. No systematic verification of conditions along the value chain.	Fair Trade Federation (FTF); World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO); Domestic Fair Trade Association 
Brand Programs	Major brands develop in-house FT programs and work with a 3 rd party to inspect and certify the company's operations against the standards	Whole Foods (Whole Trade) 

**We acknowledge that other socially responsible systems are available. While they certify for many of the same standards, they do not rise to the level of fair trade.*

This chart summarizes the logos of several certification programs and membership organizations. A product sold by a company that is a member of a fair trade membership organization may not have gone through third-party certification; conversely, a product certified as "fair trade" under a certification program does not mean that the company that produces the certified product is a dedicated fair trade company.