Regenerative Latex Standard V1.0

True Planet Limited
Regenerative Latex Standard
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 This document is marked as Regenerative Latex Standard V1.0 and is the first version of the standard, and will be subject to revision. Any audits conducted after future revisions have been implemented will be subject to the most updated version of RLS. English is the official language of the Regenerative Latex Standard. In any case of inconsistency between translations, the English version shall prevail.

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Definitions

Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS): The certification framework owned by True Planet Limited responsible for certifying the latex processing units and ensures latex products meet regenerative agriculture, environmental, and social responsibility criteria. Defined in the Introduction as a voluntary international standard for sustainable latex production.

Regenerative Farming: Farming practices restoring soil health/biodiversity, minimizing synthetic inputs. Required for RLS-certified latex sourcing (Introduction, Raw Material Requirements). Farms must be certified by Regenagri® or equivalent.

Regenagri®: Certification standards and programme owned by Regenagri CiC that is related to regenerative agriculture and is responsible for certifying rubber tree plantations and latex supply chain units where rubber latex is harvested from. Mandatory for RLS eligibility (Structure and Assessment, Farmlands).

Supply Chain Unit: A facility or entity engaged in the end-to-end supply chain of latex products, encompassing production, processing, transportation, distribution, trading, and retail. This includes manufacturing facilities that process latex as well as businesses selling finished latex products.

Latex Industry: Refers to the sector involved in all parts of the latex supply chain, in particular the natural rubber latex supply chain sourcing from natural rubber plantations (as opposed to synthetic latex). This includes but is not limited to rubber latex cultivation and harvesting, centrifuged latex processing, latex finished products processing, finished latex products retailing, and related certifications.

Compliance: The adherence to the criteria and standards set by the RLS, necessary for obtaining and maintaining RLS certification.

Field Latex: Raw liquid latex tapped from *Hevea brasiliensis* trees. Must originate from RLS-certified farms (Raw Material Requirements).

Centrifuged Latex: Concentrated latex derived from certified field latex via centrifugation. Requires documented Dry Rubber Content (DRC) (Product Requirements).

Dry Rubber Content (DRC): Percentage of solid rubber in latex after water removal. Key quality metric tested at multiple stages (Quality Control Gates).

Volatile Fatty Acids (VFA): Organic acids indicating latex spoilage. Monitored during quality control (Quality Control Gates).

Mechanical Stability Time (MST): Test measuring latex's coagulation resistance. Part of centrifuged latex quality checks (Quality Control Gates).

Total Solid Content (TSC): Total solids (rubber + non-rubber) in latex post-drying. Tracked for quality assurance (Quality Control Gates).

Traceability System: Documented process tracking latex from farm to final product using Lot/Batch Numbers and Transaction Certificates (TCs) (Traceability, Chain of Custody).

Chain of Custody (CoC): Verified path of RLS-certified materials through the supply chain. Requires segregation to prevent commingling (Chain of Custody).

Transaction Certificate (TC): Document verifying regenerative status/quantity of latex shipments. Issued by accredited certifiers (Transaction Certificates).

Lot/Batch Number: Unique identifier for RLS-certified latex batches. Essential for traceability (Traceability).

Volume Reconciliation: System ensuring input/output quantities match to prevent fraud (Volume Reconciliation).

Quality Management System (QMS): Framework for maintaining RLS compliance, including testing and audits (Quality Management System).

Commingling: Prohibited mixing of regenerative/non-regenerative latex. Prevented via Space/Time Separation (Separation of Regenerative Products).

Space Separation: Physical segregation of regenerative latex during processing/storage (Space Separation).

Time Separation: Dedicated processing time blocks after equipment cleaning (Time Separation).

Corrective Action Plan (CAP): Post-audit report outlining compliance improvements (Structure and Assessment).

Environmental Management System (EMS): Policies to reduce energy/water use, waste, and emissions (Environment Management System).

Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD): Wastewater system recycling all effluent. Encouraged for RLS compliance (Wastewater Management).

Restricted Substances List (RSL): Banned/limited chemicals in latex processing (Chemical Management).

Social Sustainability: RLS requirements for fair labor, health/safety, and community welfare (Social Sustainability).

Living Wage: Compensation exceeding legal minimums. Mandated for workers (Social and Labor Compliance).

Finished Latex Product: End-product (e.g., mattresses) containing ≥95% regenerative latex (Finished Latex Product Requirements).

Additional Materials: Non-latex components (e.g., steel, textiles) are exempt from the 95% requirement (Additional Materials).

Internal Audit: Self-assessments by certified entities to ensure RLS compliance (Internal Audits).

Third-Party Audit: Independent evaluations by accredited bodies (e.g., Control Union) (Structure and Assessment).

Subcontractor: Third-party entity contracted for specific tasks (e.g., latex processing, packaging). Must comply with RLS standards and be audited under the certifier's scope.

Non-Conformity: Deviation from RLS requirements (e.g., traceability gaps, chemical misuse). Triggers corrective actions and re-audits.

Greenwashing: Misleading sustainability claims. Prevented via RLS's strict traceability (Introduction).

Introduction

The Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) is an international, voluntary standard designed to address the pressing challenges facing the latex industry. It requires that all latex is sourced from farms certified by a leading certification program for regenerative agriculture such as Regenagri. By incorporating regenerative agricultural principles, environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and robust quality assurance, the RLS establishes a comprehensive framework for sustainable practices across the entire lifecycle of latex products. This standard not only ensures traceability and transparency but also fosters innovation and accountability within the industry, paving the way for a more sustainable and ethical latex industry.

The latex industry faces increasing demands for sustainable practices that go beyond traditional organic farming. Regenerative agriculture offers a transformative solution, emphasizing biodiversity, soil health, and ecosystem resilience. RLS focuses on latex sourced from regenerative farms that function as dynamic ecosystems, fostering diverse plant and animal life while minimizing environmental impacts. It aims to address critical industry questions, such as:

- Can claims of regenerative practices be verified as authentic and credible?
- Is there a comprehensive standard to certify latex harvested using regenerative farming methods?
- Can traceability ensure that latex in final products is truly regenerative?

Although the latex industry has adhered to quality and safety standards, there has been no robust framework addressing the collection, processing, and labeling of latex products originating from regenerative sources. RLS fills this gap by ensuring that products meet rigorous social, environmental, and quality criteria from farm to final product.

Key Objectives:

1. **Sustainable Natural Rubber Cultivation:** Promote practices that enhance productivity, resilience, and long-term sustainability in natural rubber farming.
2. **Environmental Sustainability:** Encourage regenerative agricultural practices that enhance biodiversity, improve soil health, build climate resilience, and support ecosystem restoration.
3. **Social Responsibility:** Ensure fair labor practices, equitable compensation, and community development initiatives, in alignment with International Labor Standards and relevant national laws.
4. **Consumer Confidence:** Provide transparent and credible information about the sustainability and ethical sourcing of latex products, enabling consumers to make informed choices.

5. **Industry Advancement:** Set benchmarks and best practices that drive innovation and promote responsible production across the latex industry.

RLS Core Principles:

RLS certification ensures adherence to the following core principles at every stage of the value chain:

1. **Traceability:** The entire journey of regenerative latex, from harvesting to the final product, is tracked to ensure transparency and authenticity.
2. **Quality Management Systems (QMS):** Standards for maintaining quality at every stage, from latex collection at farms to the production of final products, supported by robust monitoring and documentation practices.
3. **Environmental Management Systems (EMS):** Guidelines for addressing critical environmental aspects such as efficient energy use, water conservation, waste and wastewater management, air emission reduction, and biodiversity enhancement.
4. **Chemical Management Systems (CMS):** Best practices for managing manufacturing chemicals used in the production process, including proper storage, labeling, inventory management, and safe disposal to minimize environmental and health risks.
5. **Social Sustainability:** Compliance with labor laws, health and safety standards, and community welfare initiatives, ensuring ethical practices at all levels of production.

Why RLS Matters:

RLS is not just about creating sustainable products; it’s about enhancing transparency, accountability, and innovation across the latex industry. By implementing a rigorous traceability system, this standard ensures that consumers and businesses can trust the regenerative claims associated with certified latex products. Furthermore, it protects ecosystems, supports farming communities, and safeguards manufacturers from competition by falsely labeled or "greenwashed" products.

With the RLS structured scoring system and commitment to continuous improvement, RLS lays the foundation for a sustainable, ethical, and high-quality latex industry. By integrating regenerative farming principles with robust processing standards, it ensures that latex products contribute positively to the environment, society, and global markets.

Scope

The Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) outlines a comprehensive framework for promoting sustainability across the entire supply chain of natural rubber latex products. It focuses on ensuring that latex products are sourced, processed, and manufactured in ways that support regenerative agricultural practices, social sustainability, and environmental responsibility. This standard requires that latex is sourced from rubber plantations certified by Regenagri, a leading certification program for regenerative agriculture, to ensure adherence to the practices of regenerative agriculture, social equity, and environmental stewardship.

RLS applies to all industries utilizing natural rubber latex as a raw material. It covers the full scope from latex procurement and supply chain traceability through to quality management, sustainable manufacturing, and chemical management, ensuring that each step aligns with the principles of sustainability.

Key areas of focus within the RLS include:

- **Regenerative Agricultural Practices:** The standard emphasizes the use of regenerative farming practices through Regenagri certified farms, to improve soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience while reducing the environmental footprint of latex production.
- **Traceability and Transparency:** RLS requires the tracing of latex from its origin at Regenagri certified farms through the entire production process, ensuring full transparency and accountability for the environmental and social impacts at each stage. The RLS certification of supply chain units requires compliance with the Chain of Custody section of RLS.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** RLS includes a thorough assessment of the supply chain unit's environmental policies and performance targets. Specific areas such as energy consumption and GHG emissions, water usage, wastewater treatment, waste management, and air emissions, are carefully tracked and improved upon. The standard encourages best practices to minimize environmental impact at every stage of production.
- **Quality Management:** RLS ensures that all manufacturing processes adhere to established quality procedures and standards. This guarantees the production of high-quality latex products that meet both industry standards and consumer expectations.
- **Chemical Management:** The standard evaluates the safe management of chemicals throughout the latex production process. This includes ensuring regenerative farmers are aware of appropriate latex preservatives, following chemical handling, storage, and disposal policies at the manufacturing level, and confirming compliance with Restricted Substances Lists (RSL) to ensure the safety and sustainability of the final product.

- **Social Sustainability:** This section outlines the adherence to national labor laws, health, and safety standards, alongside promoting fair trade and livelihood improvements for workers involved in the latex supply chain.

The Regenerative Latex Standard takes into consideration all stages of latex production, from the regenerative farming practices at the start of the supply chain to the finished product that reaches the consumer, ensuring the highest levels of sustainability and responsibility throughout the entire process.

Assessment Process

The Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) certification process is designed to ensure adherence to sustainable practices and provide a transparent evaluation framework for latex manufacturing. The certification process is conducted in collaboration with accredited third-party partners and includes the following steps:

- **Eligibility Criteria:** Only companies that have Regenagri Certified farms, and use harvested latex from these farms for their manufacturing process, are eligible to apply for RLS certification. Companies cannot be certified if they use non-certified latex sources.

- **Application Submission:** Applicants must submit an application that will be assessed for certification under RLS. Upon approval of their application, applicants will be notified to begin the audit process.

- **Audit for *"Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS)"*:** The applicant's operations will be audited with the required prior preparation under the Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS). This audit should also be completed by an accredited third-party auditing partner. Third-party auditors will evaluate adherence to RLS according to requirement criteria.

- **Audit Process:**

  - Site Visit and Interviews: The auditor conducts an on-site visit to evaluate the facilities and engage with personnel.

  - Documentation and Policy Review: All relevant documentation, policies, and records are thoroughly reviewed to assess compliance with RLS and Regenagri standards.

- **Timeline**: The RLS assessment must be completed after Regenagri certification is received and before its expiry date. RLS certification is valid for one year and requires annual renewal. Renewal audits must be successfully completed each year to maintain certification status.

- **Score System Levels**: Applicants will be evaluated against RLS requirements using a percentage-based scoring system. Certification and follow up requirements are determined as follows:

  - Certified (RLS): Any applicant obtaining a score of 65% or higher will be awarded RLS certification.

  - Improvement Requirement: For certified facilities with a score ≥65% and ≤90%, the facility must improve its score by at least 5 percentage points at the next annual renewal audit. Failure to demonstrate the required improvement will trigger CAP enforcement, conditional certification, or other corrective actions as determined by the auditor and RLS.

  - Exemplary (no mandatory improvement target): Facilities scoring over 90% are considered exemplary; they are not required to meet the 5% improvement target for the next year but must demonstrate sustained compliance at renewal.
  - Score Calculation: Scores are based on the total weighted points across RLS criteria (environmental, social, traceability, product integrity, management systems, etc.). The detailed scoring rubric and weights are provided to applicants prior to audit.

- **Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Report**: After the audit, the auditor prepares a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) report and shares it immediately with the applicant. The CAP report outlines findings, non-conformances and required corrective actions, with timelines for implementation and evidence submission as agreed between auditor and applicant. The final audit report is submitted to RLS within two weeks. (Note: The CAP report process applies only to the RLS audit.)
- **Final Certification Decision**: After the audit is completed, the accredited auditing body submits the audit report, CAP closure evidence, and scoring results to RLS. The RLS review team then evaluates the report to ensure consistency, fairness, and compliance with RLS requirements. Once the review is complete, RLS formally approves the outcome and grants permission for the accredited auditing body to issue the official score and RLS certification to the applicant.
- Stakeholder Involvement: Key stakeholders involved in the process include:
  - Regenagri: Validates regenerative certifications.
  - Third-party auditor: Conducts audits and approves certifications for applicants.

By following this structured and transparent process, RLS ensures that certified facilities uphold sustainable and regenerative practices, contributing to environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and product integrity.

Standard Structure

The RLS certification standard is structured into eight major sections, each serving a distinct function within the overall compliance framework.

Sections 1 - 2: Core Eligibility Criteria

These sections establish the fundamental eligibility conditions for certification. These sections cover the sourcing origin of latex (must be from Regenagri-certified farms) and the composition and sustainability of all components in the final product.

- Section 1: Raw Material Requirements
- Section 2: Product Requirements

Compliance with these sections is mandatory to qualify for RLS certification. Without meeting the requirements outlined in Sections 1 and 2, no further certification steps can be undertaken.

Sections 3 - 4: Material Integrity through Operational Controls

Sections 3 and 4 act as the verification mechanism for certified material quantities, traceability, and certified product integrity.

- Section 3: Chain of Custody
- Section 4: Quality Management System (QMS)

Together, these sections ensure that certified regenerative latex is unadulterated throughout production and handling, and proper operational procedures are maintained to uphold product consistency and traceability.

Sections 5 - 7: Sustainable Management Systems

Once eligibility and material integrity are established, the remainder of the RLS sections focus on systems and practices that support traceability, sustainability, quality, and social responsibility:

- Section 5: Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Section 6: Chemical Management System (CMS)
- Section 7: Social Sustainability (Labor, Health & Safety)

These systems enable continuous improvement and compliance with environmental and social criteria that align with regenerative and ethical principles.

1.0 Raw Material Requirements

1.1 Field Latex Raw Material

- To achieve Regenerative Latex Standard certification, the first processing facility must verify that the field latex it receives for certified products originates exclusively from Regenagri certified farms. Downstream entities (e.g. finished product manufacturers, retail units) are not required to directly source from Regenagri certified farms, but must maintain material traceability through Chain of Custody (CoC) back to the certified first processor.
- Field latex entering the first processing facility must have a valid Regenagri scope certificate for the farms, issued by an accredited certification body who will also verify certified quantities.
- The origin and quantities shall be documented for regenerative field latex and other related raw materials which have been delivered.

1.2 Farmlands

- Farmland or farm groups supplying field latex must be Regenagri certified, ensuring cultivation aligns with ecosystem sustainability, natural resource management, and community well-being. Compliance with the "*Regenagri Standard - Farms*" for rubber plantations is mandatory.
- Documents required by this standard shall be kept for four years and be available for audit.

1.3 Purchasing (Field Latex)

- Establish a comprehensive purchasing policy detailing procedures and criteria for procuring regenerative field latex, including criteria for selecting suppliers.
- Implement formal agreements with suppliers, specifying terms, conditions, and compliance with regenerative standards and certification requirements.
- All input volumes shall be confirmed by transaction certificates or applicable purchase documentation.

1.4 Collection, Transportation, and Storage of Field Latex

- Regenerative field latex must be collected separately from non-regenerative latex to prevent commingling.
- Implement clear segregation methods during collection, transport, and storage to maintain the integrity of regenerative latex.
- Use dedicated equipment and storage areas for regenerative latex to avoid contamination.
- Maintain detailed records of the amounts of regenerative latex collected.
- Keep accurate records of any chemicals added during the collection process, including types and quantities used.

- Implement a verification system to ensure that regenerative latex is collected according to established procedures without commingling.
- Issue gate passes for each batch of regenerative latex collected, detailing the quantity and origin of the latex.
- Monitor and record the amounts of regenerative latex transported at each stage to ensure accuracy and traceability.
- Regularly monitor and audit the collection processes to ensure compliance with regenerative standards.
- Provide training to staff involved in the collection process to ensure understanding and adherence to regenerative latex collection standards.

2.0 Product Requirements

2.1 Centrifuged Latex Product Requirements

- Natural rubber latex used for centrifugation must be sourced exclusively from Regenagri certified rubber plantations in order to be certified.
- The dry rubber content (DRC) of the raw latex received from certified plantations and post-centrifugation must be documented.
- Additionally, the waste percentage should be recorded, and all such records must be readily available for auditing purposes.
- The addition of processing chemicals for VFA control, accelerating agents, and non-rubber precipitating agents is allowed. Detailed records of the usage and quantities of these chemicals must be meticulously maintained.

2.2 Finished Latex Product Requirements

2.2.1 Mandatory Requirements

- The final product must consist of a minimum of 95% of natural rubber latex based on its total weight, with 100% of the utilized natural rubber latex required to be Regenagri certified.
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) are not accepted for any materials used in the product.
- A content report shall be obtained for the final product (excluding centrifuged latex).
- Any textile, steel, coir, or other raw materials, excluding natural latex, will be classified as additional materials/accessories and excluded from the content report requirement of 95% Regenagri certified natural rubber latex.
- For rubberized coir products, at least 50% of the total weight must consist of natural rubber latex where 100% of utilized natural rubber latex is Regenagri certified. Coir fiber used in certified products must either be from an organic origin certified by an accredited certification body, sourced from regenerative cultivation, or certified according to a program that follows sustainable sourcing principles (e.g., Regenagri®, GRS®, FSC®, PEFC®, and Rainforest Alliance).
- When using steel coils or innersprings for mattresses, the steel coils/innersprings should be properly covered or encased. Steel coils and innersprings, and their coverings or encasings, will be considered under the Additional Materials/Accessories category and are excluded from the percentage calculations described.

2.2.2 Optional Requirements

- The eco-INSTITUT-Label certification or similar emission testing is accepted by RLS to show proof of minimized emissions in the final product.

- Any textile material used as a covering product or lining of the product (e.g., industrial gloves) should be from regenerative cultivation or certified according to a program that verifies sustainable sourcing principles (e.g., Regenagri®, GOTS®, GRS®).
- Packaging materials for the retail trade should be recycled or sourced from regenerative cultivation or certified according to a program that verifies sustainable sourcing principles (e.g., Regenagri®, GOTS®, GRS®, FSC®, PEFC®, and Rainforest Alliance).

2.3 Additional Materials

Beyond latex, a product may use a variety of non-latex additional materials/accessories, including but not limited to:

- Steel components: Coils, innersprings, frames, and borders.
- Wood: Used for supports, frames, or structural elements.
- Textiles: Such as cotton, synthetic fabric, or other fiber products.
- Coir: Organic or sustainably sourced for padding or support layers.
- Fasteners and closing systems: Including zippers, buttons, or adhesives.
- Government-required flammability protection: Materials meeting legal safety standards.
- Packaging materials: Including recycled or certified sustainable options like FSC®, PEFC®, or Rainforest Alliance certified products.

3.0 Chain of Custody (CoC)

This document outlines the mandatory requirements for the Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) Chain of Custody (CoC). The RLS CoC provides a comprehensive framework to ensure transparency, traceability, and integrity across the regenerative latex supply chain, covering all stages from farm-harvested latex to final product delivery. Its core purpose is to monitor certified materials and chemicals, ensuring best practices in processing regenerative latex. By establishing a verifiable and auditable path for certified materials, it transforms the abstract claim of "regenerative" into a tangible and substantiated attribute of a physical product. The robust CoC requirements provide confidence to downstream manufacturers, brands, and consumers that all certified latex meets rigorous quality, safety, and sustainability standards, thereby protecting the value and integrity of the RLS and Regenagri certifications. The standard applies to all supply chain units involved in handling RLS certified latex, including collection centers, processors, manufacturers, traders, and distributors.

3.1 Documented Procedures

3.1.1 Documented Procedures for CoC Standard Implementation

A documented traceability system must be established and maintained. Certified facilities must implement robust internal auditing systems to ensure ongoing CoC compliance. A formal system must be in place for documenting all non-conformities identified during internal or external audits and for implementing and tracking corrective actions to prevent recurrence.

3.1.2 Organizational Chart

The facility must maintain a documented organizational chart that clearly defines roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability in implementing the RLS Chain of Custody (CoC). The organizational chart demonstrates clear accountability for all aspects of CoC compliance. Each team member’s role and responsibilities must align with the CoC procedures, ensuring proper latex collection, segregation, and traceability. Staff must be aware of their responsibilities and adequately trained to prevent contamination and maintain product integrity.

3.1.3 Identification of Key Points Affecting CoC Integrity

Certified facilities must conduct annual inspections, internal reviews, and risk assessments to identify and mitigate potential risks of contamination, loss of traceability, or non-compliance at critical control points.

3.2 Purchasing and Goods Intake

3.2.1 Documented Chain of Custody (CoC) Policy

The facility must have a written Chain of Custody (CoC) policy, approved by top management, that clearly states commitments to traceability, prevention of contamination, and compliance with sustainability requirements. The CoC policy serves as the foundation of the facility's commitment to maintaining certified regenerative latex integrity.

3.2.2 Documented Procedures for Purchasing, Collection, and Transportation of Regenerative Latex

Certified latex must be collected and transported in dedicated vehicles or in containers that have been thoroughly cleaned to prevent any contamination or commingling with non-certified material.

3.2.3 Compliance with Regenagri-Certified Latex Purchasing Standards

All field latex entering the supply chain must originate from farms or farm groups holding a valid Regenagri scope certificate, issued by an accredited certification body. This certification is the mandatory entry point into the RLS supply chain.

3.2.4 Required Documentation for Latex Deliveries

All shipments must be accompanied by comprehensive records. This documentation must include detailed information on the sender and receiver, unique batch or lot numbers, precise volumes, and clear references to the corresponding Regenagri certification. Gate passes must be issued for each batch of regenerative latex collected, detailing its quantity and origin.

3.2.5 Handling Non-Conforming Regenagri Products and Documents

Any product with an unclear or unverified certification status must be quarantined and must not be processed or sold as certified until its status is confirmed.

3.2.6 Supplier List and Certification Tracking for Latex Procurement

The facility must maintain an updated supplier list, including both certified and non-certified latex sources, to track compliance with CoC requirements and ensure traceability throughout the supply chain. Certification records must be maintained for each supplier, including validity dates and expiration tracking, to ensure that only compliant suppliers are used.

3.2.7 Primary Procurement and Supplier Verification for Traders and Agents

Traders and agents involved in primary procurement must maintain a detailed and regularly updated supplier list of all farms, cooperatives, and processing facilities they source latex from, including certification verification and delivery documentation. Each supplier's certification status, location (including GPS coordinates), and parent company (if applicable) must be recorded.

3.3 Subcontracted Activities

3.3.1 Subcontracted Activity Details

Organizations that subcontract activities such as storage, transport, processing, or other outsourced operations must ensure that all subcontractors comply with Regenagri and RLS Chain of Custody (CoC) Standards. The certified site remains fully responsible for maintaining traceability, compliance, and integrity of certified materials throughout the supply chain.

3.4 Sales of Certified Products

3.4.1 Sales of Certified Products Details

Every transfer of ownership of RLS-certified material from the farm to processors, traders, or manufacturers must be accompanied by a Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by the accredited Certification Body. All sales documentation, including invoices and delivery records, must clearly identify the certified product, specify the percentage of regenerative content, reference the unique batch or lot numbers, and include the corresponding Transaction Certificate reference number.

3.5 Training and Awareness

3.5.1 Training and Awareness Details

All relevant staff must receive documented training on CoC procedures, including material handling, segregation protocols, stock reconciliation, and real-time volume tracking. This ensures that personnel have the necessary competency and awareness to maintain the integrity of the CoC system.

3.6 Record Keeping

3.6.1 Record Keeping for Chain of Custody

Certified organizations must maintain accurate and comprehensive documentation to support all processes involving regenerative latex. All records related to the RLS CoC must be retained for a minimum of four years and be readily available for auditors. The following table summarizes the minimum documentation required.

Supply Chain Stage	Required Records/Documents	Minimum Retention Period	Key Purpose
Harvesting & Sourcing	Regenagri scope certificates, harvest volume logs, tapping schedules.	4 Years	Verify source eligibility & sustainable yield.
Collection & Transport	Shipment records, gate passes, container cleaning logs, EUDR compliance documentation.	4 Years	Ensure integrity during transit & regulatory compliance.
Processing & Manufacturing	Input/output logs, batch production records, volume reconciliation reports, waste records, chemical usage logs, segregation/cleaning logs.	4 Years	Provide full traceability and quantitative proof of CoC.
Sales & Distribution	Copies of all issued and received Transaction Certificates, sales invoices, delivery records.	4 Years	Validate ownership transfer and final product claims.

3.6.2 Tracking and Documentation of Certified Latex Volumes

A comprehensive inventory and accounting system must be maintained to perform regular volume reconciliation. This system must ensure that the total volume of certified outputs, including sold products and accounted-for waste, does not exceed the total volume of certified inputs over a defined period.

3.6.3 Accurate Stock Balance Calculation

This quantitative check is fundamental to preventing the fraudulent sale of non-certified material as certified. Input volumes must be validated against purchase records and incoming Transaction Certificates. Production losses and waste percentages must be accurately calculated, justified, and documented.

3.6.4 Inclusion of Estimated Latex Weights in the Chain of Custody Certificate

The facility must document and report the estimated weight of certified latex in the Chain of Custody (CoC) Certificate, representing the total certified latex available for delivery during a given year. This estimation accounts for total latex produced, purchased, and available for delivery, allowing auditors and stakeholders to verify the volume of regenerative latex in the supply chain.

3.7 Segregation and Traceability Criteria

3.7.1 Segregation of Regenagri-Certified Latex from Non-Certified Latex

Certified regenerative products must remain clearly and identifiably separated from non-certified materials. This is achieved through Space Separation (physical segregation in designated areas) or Time Separation (processing at different times after thorough equipment cleaning).

3.7.2 Record-Keeping for Blended Products Containing Regenagri-Certified Latex

The accuracy of certified content claims in all blended products must be independently verifiable during audits. Labeling for such products must clearly and accurately state the percentage of certified content.

3.7.3 Minimum Regenagri Certified Content in Blended Products

Blended products that carry an RLS-certified claim must still contain a minimum of 95% certified regenerative latex. This threshold must be verifiable through detailed reconciliation records.

3.7.4 Compliance with Additional Fiber Material Requirements for Blended Products

All non-latex components in blended products must comply with approved material requirements. Only permitted synthetic, technical, or other allowed fibers may be used, and restricted fibers are strictly prohibited.

3.7.5 Continuous Accounting System for Traceability

All production batches, stock movements (including input, in-process, and output volumes), and waste must be documented in real-time. This practice maintains a continuous and auditable traceability trail.

3.8 Conversion Factor

3.8.1 Documented Methodology for Calculating Conversion Factors

The facility must have a documented methodology for calculating conversion factors for each certified product, ensuring accurate material transformation reporting within the traceability system.

3.8.2 Consistent Application of Conversion Factors

The facility must ensure that conversion factors are applied consistently across all production and processing operations, in accordance with documented methodologies and established benchmarks.

3.8.3 Periodic Review and Updating of Conversion Factors

The facility must periodically review conversion factors and update them as necessary to ensure they accurately reflect actual production performance and, where applicable, industry averages.

3.9 Traceability from Latex Harvest to End Product

3.9.1 Traceability System for Regenagri-Certified Latex

A documented traceability system must be capable of tracking material seamlessly from a finished product on a retail shelf back to its original certified farm source—and vice versa. The system must be supported by the assignment of unique Lot or Batch Numbers at all critical stages of production and transfer.

3.9.2 Documentation of Traceability in Sales Transactions

All sales documentation, including invoices and delivery records, must clearly identify the certified product, specify the percentage of regenerative content, reference unique batch or lot numbers, and include the corresponding Transaction Certificate reference number.

3.9.3 Regular Internal Review of the Traceability System

Certified facilities must implement robust internal auditing systems to ensure ongoing CoC compliance. This includes conducting annual inspections and internal reviews.

3.9.4 Ensuring Traceability Compliance Throughout the Supply Chain

Compliance with this entire CoC criteria will be verified through mandatory annual on-site inspections conducted by an accredited third-party certification body. These audits provide independent assurance that the certified organization adheres to the highest standards.

3.10 Chemical Management

3.10.1 Chemical Management and Traceability in Latex Processing

The RLS-certified organization must verify and document all farm-level chemical usage. Every chemical container used at the farm level must include the Batch number, Manufacturing date, Manufacturer name, and Expiry date. For preservatives produced in-house, a mixing recipe must be approved and each batch coded with a traceable number. The certified organization must ensure all chemicals used in manufacturing have pre-purchase documentation and complete traceability, linking usage directly to the final manufactured product batch.

3.10.2 Safe Chemical Handling and Regulatory Compliance

All storage and production equipment used for regenerative latex must be thoroughly cleaned to avoid contamination, with documented cleaning schedules and procedures. The use of fumigants or pest control methods must comply with relevant regenerative standards, and any deviation must be authorized by the certification body.

3.10.3 Chemical Usage Tracking and Documentation

All chemicals used during processing must be meticulously documented and clearly traced to the specific latex batches in which they were applied. This ensures full transparency and accountability.

4.0 Quality Management System (QMS)

Certified organizations producing centrifuged latex and finished latex products shall establish, implement, and maintain a Quality Management System (QMS) to meet the Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) requirements. The QMS must ensure the integrity, traceability, and compliance of products at every stage of production and processing.

4.1 Documentation and Organizational Structure

- **Client Number Assignment:** Each client shall be assigned a unique number by the certification body for accurate tracking and documentation.
- **Management Plan:** Organizations must maintain a documented management plan detailing key processes, identifying risk points, and including material and process flow diagrams.
- **Organizational Responsibilities:** Organizations must document their organizational structure, assigning clear responsibilities for RLS conformity. A designated representative must oversee overall compliance.
- **Operational Documentation:**
    - Maintain flow charts to detail operations related to latex production and processing.
    - Create and update detailed unit flow plans or factory layouts to optimize processes and ensure efficient workflows.
- **Site and Process Documentation:** Organizations must document the names, locations, and processes of all sites involved in latex production and maintain a detailed factory layout for each site including quality checkpoints.
- **Information and Access:** Organizations must provide certification bodies with up-to-date information and unrestricted access to demonstrate RLS compliance. Legal entity status and permissions to operate must be documented.

4.2 Quality Control Gates

Certified organizations must implement control measures at critical points in the production process to ensure product quality and integrity:

- **Field Latex:**
    - Incoming inspection of chemicals used in preservation
    - Controlled addition of chemical preservatives (e.g., low ammonia, ZnO, TMTD)
    - Laboratory tests, including:
        - Dry Rubber Content (DRC)
        - Volatile Fatty Acids (VFA)
        - Total Solid Content (TSC)
        - Alkalinity

        - Magnesium (Mg^2+)
- **Centrifuged Latex:**
    - Incoming inspection of chemicals
    - Laboratory tests, including:
        - Dry Rubber Content (DRC)
        - Volatile Fatty Acids (VFA)
        - Total Solid Content (TSC)
        - Alkalinity
        - Mechanical Stability Time (MST)
        - Magnesium (Mg^2+)
- **Finished Latex Products:**
    - Incoming inspection of raw materials
    - Laboratory tests specific to compounded latex and finished product requirements
    - Final product quality tests to ensure compliance with specifications

4.3 Material and Product Integrity

- **Customer and Product Requirements:** Organizations must define and document product specifications, including raw material composition, ingredient lists, processing aids, chemicals, and recovery rates.
- **Contamination Prevention:** Establish procedures to prevent commingling and contamination. Implement a robust traceability system to monitor products through production.

4.4 Auditing and Quality Assurance

- **Auditing of Processes:**
    - Annual on-site inspections are mandatory for processors, manufacturers, and traders, with unannounced inspections based on risk assessments.
    - Certificates of compliance must list certified products, categories, and qualified activities within the certification scope, including subcontractors.
    - Auditing requirements (including requirements for groups certifications, subcontractors) are provided in the Chain of Custody.
- **Certification Body Requirements:**
    - Certification bodies must authorize certifiers for specific scopes, including mechanical and wet processing, manufacturing operations, and trading.
    - Certifiers must be accredited per the 'Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies' or another recognized accreditation standard

4.5 Testing and Monitoring

- **Technical Quality Parameters and Residues:**
  - Conduct testing as per a risk assessment to ensure compliance with technical quality parameters and residue limits.
  - Risk assessments must include products, components, and inputs, all of which may be subject to testing.
- **Sampling and Inspection:**
  - Inspectors may collect samples during on-site inspections to confirm compliance or investigate suspected non-conformance.
  - Additional samples may be collected from the supply chain without prior notice.

4.6 Internal Audits and Continuous Improvement

- Regular internal audits must evaluate conformity with RLS requirements.
- Organizations must maintain records to uphold the integrity of claimed materials, facilitate audits, demonstrate chain of custody, and achieve RLS goals.
- Continuous improvement processes must be implemented for QMS effectiveness and product quality enhancement.

4.7 Labelling Control

- All products must be clearly and distinctly labeled to differentiate between RLS Certified® products and conventional products.
- The RLS Certified® Marks must not be used on products from sources that do not meet the certification criteria.
- Traceability Identifier: A traceability code (such as Batch Number or Lot Number) that facilitates tracking the product back to its origin.
- Certification Body Client Number: A unique client number assigned by the certification body.
- Product Composition Labeling: The product name can be accompanied by the designation "Made with ≥95% Certified Regenerative Latex." If the organization undergoing audit requires or prefers component-wise labeling, the request must be submitted for approval by the certifier. In cases where component-wise labeling is mandatory, it must fully comply with the specified requirements.
- In cases where additional materials are used, each product must be labeled to clearly identify its components and intended use (optional).
- Manufacturer's Identification: The name and address of the manufacturer may be included (optional).
- Logo Usage: Use of certification marks on RLS-certified products and related marketing materials is mandatory to substantiate claims. The official 'RLS-Regenagri Combined Mark'

must be used for all on-product and off-product communications referencing RLS certification. The application of this mark, including its size, color, and placement, is strictly governed by the rules and technical specifications detailed in the RLS - Logo Guide 1.0. Adherence to this guide is a condition of RLS certification. The use of standalone RLS or standalone Regenagri logos to represent RLS product certification is explicitly prohibited.

- Artwork Approval Process: To ensure compliance and maintain brand integrity, all artwork, packaging, websites, and marketing materials featuring the 'RLS-Regenagri Combined Mark' must be submitted to the certified entity's accredited Certification Body for formal approval prior to publication, printing, or public release. The Certification Body is responsible for verifying that the artwork complies with all requirements stipulated in the RLS - Logo Guide 1.0. The certified entity must maintain a record of this approval for each artwork, as this documentation will be subject to review during annual audits.
- Additional requirements for claims related to Regenagri are provided in the Regenagri Standards.

5.0 Environment Management System (EMS)

The Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) requires a strong Environmental Management System (EMS) to sustainably manage the latex industry's significant environmental impacts by optimizing resource use, controlling pollution, reducing waste, and ensuring regulatory compliance. This audit assesses whether the facility clearly defines and updates environmental roles, effectively identifies and mitigates risks through impact assessments, and implements a relevant environmental policy with measurable objectives that guides continuous improvement and engages employees and suppliers. It also evaluates employee awareness through training programs and practical involvement in sustainability initiatives, as well as the facility’s approach to extending environmental responsibility to subcontractors and suppliers via assessments and collaboration. Documentation such as organizational charts, job descriptions, impact evaluations, policies, training records, and supplier reports are reviewed, alongside staff interviews and onsite observations to confirm the alignment of practices with documented systems and continuous commitment to environmental performance.

The EMS is divided into five key categories for effective monitoring and improvement. These categories are Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Management, Water Management, Wastewater Management, Waste Management, and Air Emissions Management.

5.1 Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Management

5.1.1 Energy Monitoring and Tracking

Effective energy monitoring and tracking forms the foundation of sustainable operations. All energy sources - including electricity, fossil fuels, and renewable alternatives - must be systematically identified and measured. Establishing baseline consumption data enables facilities to pinpoint inefficiencies and track progress. A critical component involves calculating Scope 1 (direct emissions), Scope 2 (indirect emissions), and Scope 3 (Regenagri farm emissions) to understand the complete carbon footprint.

5.1.2 Renewable Energy Implementation

Transitioning to renewable energy is essential for long-term sustainability. Facilities should prioritize solar, wind, or biomass energy systems, ensuring they meet certification standards for clean energy use. For example, biomass boilers can significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuels when sourced responsibly - using only certified sustainable biomass or compliant local suppliers. Regular audits of renewable energy systems, including performance tracking and maintenance, help maximize efficiency and ensure alignment with environmental regulations.

5.1.3 Boiler Operation and Maintenance

Firewood used in biomass boilers must adhere to local environmental regulations and be sourced exclusively from non-protected forests or certified sustainable suppliers recognized by the relevant environmental authorities. Regular emissions testing must be conducted in accordance with national air quality standards, with maintenance logs documenting ash removal, equipment inspections, and necessary repairs. Fuel purchase records, along with emissions test results and maintenance reports, must be retained for a minimum of two years to ensure compliance and traceability.

5.1.4 Energy Reduction Targets

Energy reduction requires concrete, measurable targets tied to specific timelines. Facilities should establish annual reduction goals, such as percentage decreases in energy use per production unit, supported by comprehensive action plans. These plans should focus on process optimization, equipment upgrades, and operational efficiency improvements.

5.1.5 Sustainable Best Practices - *(Optional - Recommended but not required)*

Sustainable best practices offer the most significant long-term benefits. Beyond renewable energy adoption, facilities should implement energy-efficient technologies like high-efficiency motors, LED lighting, and automated process controls. Heat recovery systems, such as capturing waste heat from boilers or machinery, further enhance efficiency. Regular employee training on energy conservation and routine energy audits ensure continuous progress toward sustainability goals.

5.2 Water Management

Effective water management is essential for sustainable rubber production. Facilities must implement structured monitoring and reduction programs while progressively adopting advanced conservation practices.

5.2.1 Water Monitoring and Tracking

All facilities are required to identify and document water sources, including municipal supplies, groundwater, and process water. Establishing an annual baseline (m^3/year) is critical for measuring progress. High-consumption areas like boilers and cooling systems must install sub-meters to enable precise tracking.

5.2.2 Water Use Reduction Targets

Facilities must set measurable annual reduction targets (e.g., 3-5% per ton of production). Priority actions include implementing leak detection systems and optimizing production-line water use.

5.2.3 Sustainable Best Practices - *(Optional - Recommended but not required)*

While not mandatory initially, these practices are strongly encouraged for early adoption:

- **Water Recycling/Reuse:** Pilot projects for treating and reusing process water in non-critical applications (e.g., equipment cooling)
- **Alternative Water Sources:** Rainwater harvesting systems for landscaping and toilet flushing
- **Efficiency Upgrades:** Testing automated shutoff valves and high-pressure nozzles in select production areas
- **Employee Engagement:** Voluntary water conservation awareness programs.

Note: All water data - whether from mandatory tracking or voluntary initiatives - must be properly recorded. Facilities should maintain separate logs for optional projects to demonstrate progressive improvement during audits.

5.3 Wastewater Management

5.3.1 Wastewater Identification and Tracking

All rubber manufacturing facilities must systematically identify and document all wastewater sources, including production processes (latex processing, equipment washing) and domestic activities (restrooms, canteens). Implement a tracking system to monitor daily effluent volumes and key quality parameters (pH, TSS, BOD, COD) through flow meters and sampling points. Maintain comprehensive records to establish baseline data and detect anomalies in wastewater generation patterns.

5.3.2 Wastewater Reduction Targets

Facilities are required to set quantifiable annual targets for reducing wastewater generation, expressed as percentage reduction per production unit. Implement water conservation measures such as process optimization, equipment upgrades, and leak detection programs. Document all reduction initiatives and track progress through monthly water balance reports comparing actual performance against established targets.

5.3.3 Sustainable Best Practices *(Optional - Recommended but not required)*

- Install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) to meet or exceed local regulatory standards for wastewater discharge.

- Implement Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) systems for wastewater recycling and reuse.
- Invest in advanced treatment technologies such as membrane filtration or reverse osmosis.
- Explore sustainable sludge management and recycling of treated wastewater for non-potable uses.
- Regular testing and reporting of wastewater discharge must ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

5.4 Waste Management

5.4.1 Waste Monitoring and Tracking

Effective waste management begins with comprehensive monitoring and tracking systems. All facilities must implement standardized procedures to identify, categorize, and quantify all waste streams generated during operations. This includes establishing clear waste classifications (hazardous, non-hazardous industrial, recyclable, and domestic waste) and maintaining detailed records of waste generation points, quantities, and disposal methods. Facilities should utilize calibrated weighing systems for accurate measurement and maintain digital tracking systems to record daily waste flows. Regular waste audits must be conducted to verify data accuracy and identify trends in waste generation patterns. These monitoring efforts form the foundation for targeted reduction strategies and compliance reporting.

5.4.2 Waste Reduction Targets

Facilities are required to establish ambitious yet achievable waste reduction targets aligned with their operational scale and environmental commitments. These targets should address both absolute waste reduction and increased recycling rates, with specific metrics such as percentage reduction in landfill waste per production unit or increased material recovery rates. Targets must be supported by concrete action plans that incorporate process optimizations, equipment upgrades, and employee training programs. Facilities should implement monthly performance tracking through KPI dashboards and conduct quarterly management reviews to assess progress. The target-setting process should consider both short-term achievable goals and long-term sustainability objectives, with regular adjustments based on performance data and technological advancements.

5.4.3 Sustainable Best Practices *(Optional - Recommended but not required)*

- Implement recycling programs for scrap materials (e.g., rubber, paper, plastics) and integrate reuse systems.

- Adopt circular economy principles, recovering materials from waste to reintroduce into the production process.
- Ensure environmentally responsible disposal of non-recyclable waste and hazardous materials.
- Explore advanced waste management practices such as waste-to-energy solutions and upcycling.
- Promote employee engagement in waste segregation and recycling.

5.5 Air Emissions Management

5.5.1 Air Emissions Monitoring and Tracking

- Identify and track all sources of air emissions, including particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon dioxide (CO_2), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and refrigerant emissions.

5.5.2 Air Pollutant Reduction Targets

- Set clear, measurable, and time-bound targets to reduce air pollutants.
- Prioritize energy efficiency, process optimization, and technology upgrades in emission reduction plans.

5.5.3 Sustainable Best Practices *(Optional - Recommended but not required)*

- Implement cleaner production technologies, such as low-NO_x burners and electrostatic precipitators.
- Transition to renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind, biomass) and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- Consider carbon neutrality by offsetting residual emissions through certified projects, such as afforestation or renewable energy initiatives.
- Adopt green logistics practices, minimizing transportation emissions by using fuel-efficient vehicles or electric alternatives.
- Continuously improve air quality and emissions control systems through research and technology adoption.

6.0 Chemical Management System (CMS)

Effective chemical management is a critical component of sustainable latex production, ensuring product quality, worker safety, and environmental protection. The RLS Chemical Management System (CMS) establishes clear guidelines for the responsible selection, handling, and disposal of chemicals used throughout the latex supply chain. In natural rubber processing, chemicals are used at various stages to maintain latex stability, improve processing efficiency, and enhance product performance. A robust chemical management system ensures proper inventory control, safe handling procedures, appropriate worker protection, and environmentally responsible waste disposal. Auditors will evaluate whether organizations have implemented clear chemical handling protocols, documented risk assessments, worker training programs, and compliance measures with local and international regulations.

6.1 Documented Chemical Management System (CMS) Policy

The facility must have a formally documented Chemical Management System (CMS) policy that clearly defines the organization’s approach to chemical handling, workplace safety, regulatory compliance, environmental protection, and sustainable chemical use. This policy should be approved by senior management and regularly reviewed. A CMS policy is the foundation of responsible chemical management, demonstrating that the facility understands the risks associated with chemical use, implements protective measures, and ensures compliance with relevant regulations.

6.2 Assignment of Responsibility for Implementing and Maintaining the Chemical Management System (CMS)

The facility must formally assign responsibility for implementing, maintaining, and continuously improving the CMS to a designated individual or a dedicated team. This ensures accountability for all chemical compliance, safety, and environmental protection initiatives. A designated Chemical Responsible Person (CRP) or team must be appointed to oversee implementation, with clearly documented roles, training records, and authority to enforce compliance. Clear assignment of responsibility is critical for the CMS to function effectively.

6.3 Chemical Purchasing Policy

The facility must have a documented chemical purchasing policy that ensures all chemicals procured are approved, safe, and suitable for use. The policy should support compliance with regulatory requirements, protect worker health and safety, and minimize environmental impact. It serves as a formal framework that defines which chemicals are allowed, the screening criteria for quality and safety, and steps to ensure compliance with legal and industry standards.

6.4 Chemical Inventory List (CIL) and Supplier Records

The facility must maintain an up-to-date Chemical Inventory List (CIL) that includes all chemicals used in production, along with associated supplier information. This ensures traceability, regulatory compliance, safety, and effective chemical management. The CIL is a centralized record that provides visibility over all chemicals, supporting worker safety, environmental protection, and procurement management. The CIL should contain product names, hazard classifications, SDS information, storage locations, and expiration dates.

6.5 Availability of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for All Chemicals

The facility must ensure that Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals used in the production process are readily available and accessible to employees. Access to SDS is critical for worker safety, emergency preparedness, regulatory compliance, and environmental protection.

6.6 Designated Chemical Storage Areas with Hazard Signage, Labeling, and Compatibility Charts

The facility must maintain well-marked, clearly designated chemical storage areas with proper hazard signage, container labeling, and chemical compatibility charts. Proper chemical storage is critical to prevent accidental exposure and the mixing of incompatible substances. Chemical storage areas must be clearly marked, ventilated, and segregated according to hazard compatibility.

6.7 Chemical Labeling and Documentation System

The facility must implement a comprehensive labeling and documentation system to ensure all chemicals are properly identified, tracked, and managed in accordance with GHS or equivalent standards. Proper chemical labeling is critical to identify hazards quickly, guide safe handling, and ensure compliance. All containers must have GHS-compliant labels with hazard pictograms and precautionary statements.

6.8 Chemical Safety Training for Employees Handling Chemicals

The facility must provide comprehensive training to all employees who handle chemicals, covering hazards, risks, safe handling practices, and emergency procedures. All employees handling chemicals must complete initial and refresher training. Chemical safety training ensures employees are aware of hazards, know correct procedures, can respond to emergencies, and maintain compliance with safety regulations.

6.9 Availability and Maintenance of Protective and Safety Equipment in Chemical Areas

The facility must provide appropriate and operable personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment in all areas where chemicals are stored, handled, or used. This includes both PPE (gloves, respirators) and safety equipment (spill kits, eyewash stations, emergency showers) to minimize risks of chemical exposure and accidents. Secondary containment should be provided for liquid chemicals.

6.10 Chemical Spill Response and Containment Plan

The facility must maintain a formal chemical spill response and containment plan to ensure rapid, effective, and safe management of chemical spills. A written spill response plan must identify containment measures, cleanup procedures, and reporting requirements for different chemical hazards. A proper plan ensures preparedness, reduces reaction time, and protects employees, equipment, and the environment.

6.11 Chemical Accident Investigation and Reporting Procedure

The facility shall maintain a documented chemical accident investigation and reporting procedure. All chemical incidents, including near-misses, must be investigated with root cause analysis and preventive actions documented. The procedure must ensure people and the environment are protected, the incident is contained, the cause is determined, and corrective actions are implemented and verified.

6.12 Chemical Formulation and Mixing Procedures

The facility must have documented procedures for preparing chemical mixtures (blending/formulating) prior to use in production. Standardized procedures must document formulation recipes, mixing parameters, and quality checks. These procedures must ensure accurate measurement, safe handling, prevention of cross-contamination, and traceability from raw inputs to finished batches.

6.13 Control Measures for Chemical Formulations to Ensure Safety, Quality, and Regulatory Compliance

The facility must have proper control measures to ensure that all chemical formulations meet safety, quality, and regulatory requirements. These measures include verifying ingredient accuracy, maintaining batch records, performing quality control tests, and ensuring formulations meet specifications before use. Any formulation deviations must trigger investigations and corrective actions before release for production use.

6.14 Testing and Validation of Chemical Formulations Before Production

The facility must have a formal process to test and validate all new or modified chemical formulations prior to their use in production. All new formulations require pre-production testing to verify performance and safety. Validation is critical to ensure formulations perform as intended, meet safety requirements, and comply with quality standards, thereby reducing the risk of production errors or defects.

6.15 Chemical Approval Process Before Introduction into Production

The facility must have a formal chemical approval process in place to evaluate and authorize all new chemicals before they are introduced into production. A structured approval process ensures any new chemical is safe for workers, complies with regulations, minimizes environmental impact, and has been assessed for safer alternatives.

6.16 Chemical Substitution Program for Phasing Out Hazardous Chemicals

The facility must implement a structured program to identify hazardous chemicals and phase them out by replacing them with safer alternatives wherever feasible. A substitution program reduces health, safety, and environmental risks by systematically replacing high-risk substances with less hazardous options. This approach supports compliance with chemical safety regulations, reduces waste management burdens, and promotes sustainable manufacturing practices.

7.0 Social Sustainability

The Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) emphasizes the importance of social responsibility within the latex production supply chain. It ensures that ethical practices, fair labor standards, and health and safety regulations are adhered to at every stage of production. This section is divided into two key areas: **Social and Labor Compliance** and **Health and Safety.**

7.1 Social and Labor Compliance

The RLS mandates that facilities involved in latex production adhere to national labor laws, international labor standards, and ethical practices that protect workers' rights and promote social equity. This includes the following principles:

7.1.1 Fair Employment Practices

All workers must be employed under fair and lawful terms. Employment contracts should outline wages, hours, benefits, and working conditions. Employers must comply with national labor laws and international labor standards, ensuring transparency and fairness in all employment practices.

7.1.2 Prohibition of Child Labor

Child labor in any form is strictly prohibited. Employers must ensure all workers meet the legal age requirements in accordance with national laws and international conventions, maintaining documentation to verify the legal age of all employees.

7.1.3 Elimination of Forced or Compulsory Labor

Workers must be employed voluntarily, free from coercion, bonded labor, or any form of forced labor. Employers must ensure workers retain control over their personal identification documents and do not require any deposits or fees as a condition of employment.

7.1.4 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

All workers must be treated equally, regardless of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, or any other protected characteristic. Employers must implement anti-discrimination policies and take active measures to prevent harassment or bullying in the workplace.

7.1.5 Living Wages and Benefits

Employers must ensure workers are paid wages that meet or exceed the legal minimum wage or living wage benchmarks, whichever is higher. Additionally, legally mandated benefits, such as paid leave, healthcare, and retirement contributions, must be provided.

7.1.6 Reasonable Working Hours

Working hours must comply with applicable labor laws, including provisions for overtime compensation. Employers must provide regular breaks, daily rest periods, and ensure that workers receive at least one day off per week.

7.1.7 Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

Workers must have the right to freely form and join labor unions or other worker organizations. Employers must engage in collective bargaining with representatives of workers in good faith, respecting their right to organize.

7.1.8 Worker Grievance Mechanisms

A transparent and accessible system must be established for workers to report grievances. These mechanisms must protect workers from retaliation, ensure grievances are addressed promptly, and that outcomes are communicated to workers in a timely manner.

7.1.9 Regular Employment Contracts

Employment relationships must be formalized with clear documentation, ensuring workers' stability and security. Temporary or casual work arrangements should not be used to circumvent legal obligations or undermine worker protections.

7.1.10 Prohibition of Harsh or Inhumane Treatment

Any form of abuse, whether verbal, physical, or psychological, is strictly prohibited. Employers must create a culture of respect and dignity, ensuring that all workers are treated humanely and with respect in all aspects of their work.

7.1.11 Worker Participation and Engagement

Employers are encouraged to involve workers in decision-making processes through committees or regular feedback sessions. Training should be provided to empower workers to understand their rights and responsibilities under labor management practices.

7.1.12 Labor Policy Communication

Employers must clearly communicate their labor policies to all workers, in a language they understand. Policies should be reviewed regularly to ensure they align with evolving labor laws and international standards, and be made available to all employees.

7.1.13 Ethical Procurement Policies

Certified entities must document procurement policies that promote transparency, fair pricing, and equitable trade. Purchase prices should reflect production costs and ensure sustainable livelihoods for farmers.

7.1.14 Farmer Welfare

Encourage capacity building, profit-sharing initiatives, and access to technology to improve farming practices and productivity. By ensuring these labor rights are upheld, RLS creates an environment where workers are treated with dignity and fairness, contributing to a more socially responsible industry.

7.2 Health and Safety

Ensuring the health and safety of workers is a critical component of the Regenerative Latex Standard. RLS establishes robust guidelines to protect workers from occupational hazards and provide a safe working environment. The following aspects are covered under the Health and Safety criteria:

7.2.1 Safe Working Environments

Employers must ensure that all workplaces are free from hazards and comply with health and safety regulations. Regular risk assessments should be conducted to identify potential risks and mitigate them to protect worker health and well-being.

7.2.2 Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Employers are required to provide adequate and appropriate PPE to workers at no cost. Regular training should be conducted on the proper use and maintenance of PPE to ensure worker safety.

7.2.3 Emergency Preparedness

Employers must develop, maintain, and regularly update emergency response plans, including evacuation procedures, fire safety protocols, and first aid measures. Emergency exits must be clearly marked, and essential items like fire extinguishers and first aid kits must be accessible at all times.

7.2.4 Occupational Health Services

Regular health check-ups must be offered to workers exposed to hazardous materials or physically demanding tasks. Employers must also provide sanitation facilities, including clean drinking water, handwashing stations, and hygienic restrooms, all of which must be maintained and available at all times.

7.2.5 Worker Training on Health and Safety

Employers must offer regular health and safety training, including awareness of hazards, emergency procedures, and safe equipment use. This training should be tailored to the literacy levels and languages of the workforce to ensure maximum understanding and effectiveness.

7.2.6 Incident Reporting and Investigation

A transparent and accessible system must be in place for workers to report incidents without fear of retaliation. All reported incidents should be investigated promptly, and corrective actions should be implemented to prevent recurrence.

7.2.7 Monitoring and Audits

Regular internal and third-party audits must be conducted to ensure compliance with health and safety standards. Key performance indicators (KPIs) should be used to monitor and assess the effectiveness of health and safety programs, ensuring ongoing improvements.

7.2.8 Accessibility to Medical Support

On-site or nearby medical facilities should be available for immediate care in case of workplace injuries or illnesses. Emergency transportation must also be arranged for workers requiring more advanced medical treatment.

7.2.9 Worker Participation in Safety Committees

Workers must be encouraged to participate in health and safety committees. Employers should act upon the feedback and recommendations from these committees to continuously improve workplace safety.

7.2.10 Prohibition of Hazardous Practices

Hazardous activities and materials that pose significant risks to worker health or safety must be prohibited or strictly controlled. Employers should actively seek and adopt safer alternatives to these hazardous processes wherever feasible.

Moving Forward with Purpose

The Regenerative Latex Standard (RLS) represents a significant step toward transforming the latex industry through a comprehensive, transparent, and credible framework that promotes regenerative agriculture, ethical sourcing, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.

By adhering to this standard, certified organizations not only demonstrate their commitment to sustainability but also contribute to a more equitable and resilient latex supply chain. RLS enables traceability from farm to finished product, encourages continuous improvement, and helps build consumer trust in truly regenerative latex goods.

As global environmental and social challenges evolve, so too will this standard. Future updates will reflect technological advancements, stakeholder feedback, and regulatory developments to ensure ongoing relevance and impact.

True Planet Limited is committed to collaborating with stakeholders across the latex value chain to promote innovation, improve practices, and raise the bar for sustainability. We thank all participating entities for their dedication to responsible practices and for joining us on this journey toward a regenerative future.