

RSPCA Assured Palm oil Policy

Version 1

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CERTIFICATION MARK

Palm oil

Summary

As part of the largest animal welfare organisation in the UK, RSPCA Assured has an obligation to assure the welfare of animals wherever it is practical to do so; and not just those covered by its farm animal welfare certification scheme, but any animals which may be impacted by its actions.

It has come to our attention that some products carrying the RSPCA Assured certification mark include palm oil as an ingredient. While palm oil offers many benefits over other vegetable oils in terms of crop yield, reduced requirements in fertiliser, pesticides and energy input, irresponsible farming of oil palms has led to deforestation and the loss of habitat for jungle animals, including orangutans, elephants, rhinos and more.

It's important that we strive to use the most sustainable options available, in order to minimise our impact on animals and the environment.

Following the guidance of WWF, RSPCA Assured will set out guidelines on its approach to palm oil with regards to products featuring the certification mark.

Purpose of the palm oil policy

We feel it is important to specifically outline our preferred approach to the use of palm oil for all brands that may use the RSPCA Assured certification mark on their products, in order to minimise the negative effect that these packages might have on wildlife and the environment.

What this policy covers:

1. Appropriate sourcing of sustainable palm oil to be used in RSPCA Assured products

Sustainable palm oil: RSPO certification

As of 01 January 2020, we request that any **new** products only use RSPO certified palm oil. And as of 01 January 2021, we will require any existing **products carrying the RSPCA**

Assured label to only include palm oil from RSPO certified growers. See <https://rspo.org/certification> for more information about this scheme.

Just as we currently would not permit the use of the RSPCA Assured logo on products that include ingredients with poor welfare provenance (e.g. eggs from caged birds, pork products from pigs raised on slatted systems), products that include palm oil from non-sustainable sources will also not be permitted to include the RSPCA Assured logo.

Why change?

For RSPCA Assured, protecting our environment, and the animals in it is crucial to our mission. In the future, we also hope to recognise members who make significant strides in this area.

This issue is gathering traction in the media, amongst pressure groups and with the general public more broadly. As one of the leading ethical assurance labels, we believe it is imperative to put policies in place to protect and fortify the reputation of the scheme, our partners and our members.