

Benchmarking: ProTerra Standard (V5.0) and VIVE

Table 2 - Additional sustainability requirements for VIVE certified operations to be recognised under PT V5.0

Additional requirements	Observations
1.3.1 ProTerra certified materials and products shall be identified using correct claims, ProTerra logos, seals, trademark and certificates, according to the Guidelines and Requirements for the Use of the ProTerra Logos and Seals.	Confirm compliance as applicable.
2.2.2 Overtime shall be limited as specified in local and national law, and shall not routinely exceed 12 hours	Confirm compliance.
2.2.3 Overtime in excess of 12 hours shall only be permitted during exceptional, limited periods, when there are constraints or risk of economic loss and when conditions regarding overtime in excess of 12 hours have been previously agreed between workers and management. Where agreement with Worker Unions exists related to excess overtime, these will be respected.	Confirm compliance.
2.2.7 Certified organisations shall have a system in place to monitor working hours and overtime.	Confirm compliance.
2.5.2 All workers living on site shall have appropriate, fairly priced, and safe food, sufficient water and housing	For the VIVE Facility module (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance as applicable for Level III.
2.6.3 Certified organisations shall communicate legal rights, contracts and agreements details to their employees in simple language and style so that workers can easily understand and comply with them.	For the VIVE Facility module (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance as applicable for Level III.
2.8.3 Wages or salaries and hours worked shall be regularly and legally paid in the national currency, documented and recorded.	Confirm compliance.
2.8.4 Employers shall not make deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes.	For Facility (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance as applicable for Level III.
2.9.5 Certified organisations shall provide, and substitute when needed, all adequate and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing to workers. No fees shall be charged for PPEs.	Confirm compliance. In the VIVE Farm module, PPE is connected exclusively with the application of agrochemicals.
2.11.3 In locations where specific regulations do not cover maternity leave, certified organisations shall establish a reasonable leave period.	Confirm compliance.
2.12.3 There shall be no discrimination by management or workers between unrepresented workers and workers represented by labour trade unions or associations, and there shall be no discrimination to workers representatives.	Confirm compliance. In the VIVE Farm module, (ProTerra Level I) no such requirement was identified.
3.1.2 Complaints and grievances, responsive actions, and outcomes shall be documented and records maintained for 5 years or more if required by local law.	Confirm compliance.
3.1.3 The communication and grievance system shall include a mechanism that allows workers and community members to make complaints anonymously (if they wish to do so), yet also allowing verification of the validity of the complaints. The organisation should recognise the competence of local labour courts, if these are the mechanism chosen by workers or the community for dealing with grievances.	Confirm compliance.
3.1.4 The complaint mechanism is transparent, has been made known and is available to all workers, local communities and traditional land users.	Confirm compliance.
3.1.5 There are communication channels that enable communication between the certified organisations and the community. The communication channels have been made known to all.	Confirm compliance.
3.2.1 In all cases, land use shall not interfere with the agricultural production systems of neighbours, and measures shall be in place to allow coexistence of different production systems.	Confirm compliance.
4.1.1 For certification under this Standard, high conservation value areas (HCV 1 to 6 -please refer to the definition in section III) must not have been cleared or converted into agricultural areas, or used for industrial or other commercial purposes, after 31 December 2008, in particular the following: a) natural forest; b) native grasslands; c) wetlands; d) swamps; e) peatlands; f) savannahs; g) steep slopes; h) floodplains; i) riparian vegetation.	Under VIVE for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified. Attention to cut off dates. Under VIVE FARM module, expansion onto New Farmland/ CRITERIA: The Company should have a documented procedure which is to be used to evaluate the potential of new farmland for its suitability for crop production. The company should ensure no Natural Ecosystems which are not classified as having a high conservation value have been converted to agricultural production on or after 31 December 2020.
4.2.3 The introduction of invasive species and new pests shall be avoided, and past introductions (prior to first certification), shall be controlled and monitored. Any relevant pest outbreak shall be reported to the authorities.	Confirm compliance.
Principle 5 – No use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	Confirm compliance as applicable.
6.1.4 Certified organisations shall ensure that there is no run-off of wastewater, oil and oil spills, chemical and chemical residues, minerals and organic substances.	Confirm compliance. Under VIVE, for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified.
6.2.2 Certified organisations shall manage biological waste such as manure, straw, crop residues, food scraps, and processing by-products, among others, in an appropriate way to avoid pollution and/or to prevent these from becoming a source of pathogenic contamination or pest harbouring. Management of these waste shall at least comply with national laws relevant to the location of the certified operation, as stated in Principle 1 of this standard. In countries where there are no relevant local laws and/or regulations, organisations should apply World Bank and IFC guidelines.	Confirm compliance. Under VIVE, for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified.
6.2.4 Wastes shall not be incinerated or burned, except when required for phytosanitary purposes, or in cases when it is burned for energy or heating or used for biogas/oil production.	Confirm compliance.
6.3.1 Certified organisations shall implement systems and procedures to ensure that concentrations of contaminants emitted through pipes, chimneys, boilers, ovens, incinerators, and electricity generators do not exceed established limits set by local, regional and national laws, or by individual authorisations delivered by competent national, regional or local authorities. In countries where there are no local laws and/or regulations, organisations should consider applying World Bank and IFC guidelines.	Confirm compliance. Under VIVE no such requirement was identified.
7.2.2 Any evidence of contamination of ground or surface water shall be reported to the local environmental authority and mitigated based on a plan agreed with such authority if necessary.	Confirm compliance.
9.1.1 Certified organisations shall adopt agricultural good practices and adopt conservation systems such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Crop Management (ICM). As much as possible, organisations should adopt organic agricultural practices and ensure adequate and continuous monitoring of crop health and the implementation of measures to improve crop resilience.	Under VIVE IPM just referred to in the context of training. Confirm compliance.
9.6.1 Certified organisations shall avoid or reduce the use of toxic or polluting materials whenever possible and shall select inputs having the least possible toxicity and environmental impact for the required application. Agricultural practices are implemented to minimise diffuse and localised impacts on surface and groundwater quality from chemical residues, fertilisers and other potential sources.	Under VIVE for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance.
9.6.2 Pesticides listed on the WHO Classes Ia, Ib lists, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention, as well as pesticides forbidden by local, national, and regional law, shall not be used on crops.	Under VIVE for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance (special attention for pesticide use in storage silos).
9.6.3 Certified organisations shall test products before commercialisation to ensure that residue levels of pesticides are negligible or are, at least, compliant with residue limits set in the country of import or use.	Under VIVE for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified.
9.6.5 Certified organisations shall only use pesticides on crops and for target species for which they are legally allowed, at the prescribed dosage, during the required timeframe and/or crop conditions, as defined by local laws, regulations, by manufacturers' recommendations or by professional advice. This will include a programme of pesticide rotation designed to minimise the development of pest resistance.	Under VIVE for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified.
9.7.1 Agrochemicals, including pesticides and fertilisers, shall be applied using methods that minimise harm to human health, wildlife, plant biodiversity, and water and air quality.	Confirm compliance.
9.7.2 Certified organisations shall not engage in pesticide spraying over bodies of water, or over preserved, protected or residential areas, in compliance with local, regional and national regulations. Pesticides shall be sprayed as per local regulations requirements in terms of distance from populated areas and bodies of water. In the absence of such regulations, pesticides shall not be sprayed within 30 meters of human populated areas, and bodies of water.	Confirm compliance.
9.7.4 Aerial spraying shall be conducted only under weather conditions that minimise drift to adjacent areas, and must be in compliance with local, regional and national laws and should not have an impact on populated areas and water bodies.	Confirm compliance.
9.7.5 Residents within 500 meters (or if required by national legislation) shall be informed at least one day in advance before aerial spraying is done.	Confirm compliance.
9.7.6 Aerial spraying shall not be carried out with pesticides listed in the WHO Classes Ia, Ib and II lists, Rotterdam Convention and Stockholm Convention.	Confirm compliance.
9.7.7 Certified organisations shall adhere to quarantine periods, avoiding harvest until applied pesticide hazard for consumers is reduced to acceptable levels.	Under VIVE for FACILITY (ProTerra Level III) no such requirement was identified.
9.7.10 Certified organisations shall regularly maintain and calibrate crop protection product and fertiliser application equipment on a regular basis. All equipment and machinery used in the production or farming activities shall be regularly maintained to ensure their safe, proper and efficient functioning. Records shall be kept.	Confirm compliance.
10.1.4 Certified organisations shall make information available related to ProTerra certified contracted volumes: the volume of the purchased certified product and the output of certified sold product. Organisations shall provide evidence of data consistency during the certification process (refer to the ProTerra Certification Protocol in force). Carry-over of certified volumes is only possible if the company's certified status is continuous. In contrary cases, the carry-over is not possible and the corresponding amount must be excluded from this balance sheet and from the certified volumes.	Information on ProTerra contracted volumes and balance sheets are necessary.
10.1.6 Conveyances to transport ProTerra-certified material shall be inspected prior to loading to verify freedom from residues of materials that are not ProTerra compliant, and if residues are observed, the conveyance shall be cleaned prior to loading ProTerra-certified materials. Inspection and cleaning of conveyances shall be documented.	Under VIVE, for FARM (ProTerra Level I) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance.
10.1.7 When ProTerra-certified material is transported as a part-load together with other material, systems and procedures shall be in place to prevent mixing during loading, transport and unloading. Correct ProTerra-certified product shall be clearly identified and delivered to the customer.	Under VIVE, for FARM (ProTerra Level I) no such requirement was identified. Confirm compliance.
10.1.8 Certified organisations shall comply with Principle 5 to demonstrate that genetically modified organisms are not used.	Refer to benchmarking results under ProTerra Principle 5.
10.1.9 Traders and dealers may merge or split consignments of ProTerra-certified products. To each new merged or split consignment, a unique identification number shall be assigned, registered and clearly traceable in the Chain of Custody System used by the organisation.	Confirm compliance as applicable.
10.3.1 When using Segregation CoC Model, the economic operator shall have and consistently apply, standard operating procedures for maintaining full segregation for each lot of ProTerra-certified product from non-certified material from the point of receipt to the point of transfer to the next economic operator in the supply chain.	Confirm compliance as applicable.
10.3.2 When using Segregation CoC Model, precautions, including physical labelling of facilities and conveyances, must be in place to prevent co-mingling of ProTerra-certified material with other material during transport, during loading and unloading activities.	Confirm compliance as applicable.
Certification Decision	To be Certificated under ProTerra 80% of all indicators have to meet including all CORE indicators. ProTerra has 103 CORE indicators out of a total of 143 indicators. This means meeting 115 indicators (rounded number), that is, 103 core plus 12 non-core indicators . Currently VIVE is aligned with only 10 of the PT non-core indicators. These are: 1.1.4, 1.1.7, 1.4.1, 2.2.6, 3.3.2, 8.1.1, 9.3.3, 9.5.1, 9.6.4 and 9.7.9 Compliance has to be confirmed for at least 2 additional ProTerra non-core indicators.