

Update: Implementation of Resolution 6f (2016) - 'Review and amendment of the updated NPP process as applied to smallholders'

RSPO Secretariat has issued a statement on 15 November 2016 announcing the ratification of Resolution 6f at the recent GA in Bangkok. The Resolution demanded a reprieve from the New Planting Procedures (NPP) for all smallholders – independent, scheme or associated – until a review of the updated NPP guidance document is completed within 6 months of the announcement.

Since then, the RSPO Secretariat has been requested to develop an interim guidance on implementation methodology of the Resolution under specific situations.

Under the normal circumstances, the certification process for a smallholder has to comply with the Group Certification Standard and/or all the requirements of P&C 2013, whereby new plantings¹ carried out after 1 January 2010 has to comply with the NPP requirement.

With the ratification of the Resolution 6f/2016, any new plantings conducted by smallholders since 10 November 2016 are exempted from the submission of NPP documents until further announcement is to be made.

Notwithstanding that smallholders are exempted from NPP submission, any smallholder group who are intending to undergo certification, would still be subjected to comply with the Principle 7 of the RSPO P&C 2013, which means that HCV assessment, SEIA, GHG assessment, LUCA, soil and topography survey and FPIC are still required.

The application of the Resolution is not retrospective, meaning that all development prior to 10 November 2016, are required to comply with the NPP. Failure to comply with the NPP requirement will trigger sanctions as announced on 21 December 2015.

Below are scenarios where this exemption is considered applicable:

Scenarios	Applicability
New plantings for a plasma (scheme smallholder) project carried out by a company between May 2012 – June 2013. No NPP document submitted. Are such new plantings now exempted from submitting the NPP?	The application of the Resolution 6f is not retrospective. As such, such plasma (scheme smallholder) development are subjected to NPP. Failure to comply will have to be dealt through sanctions.
An independent group of smallholders conducted new planting beginning December 2016. They do not have to submit NPP, but how about HCV	New plantings development by smallholders carried out after 10 November 2016, are exempted from NPP. However it is still subjected to comply

¹ New plantings shall be referred to as any land clearing and preparation, including any associated development carried out after 1 January 2010.

assessment, SEIA and the GHG assessment?	with the Principle 7 of the RSPO 2013 P&C requirements. As such, HCV assessment, SEIA and GHG assessments still applied.
A company carry out new plantings for a plasma beginning June 2016 and continue until now. Are such development exempted from NPP submission?	Since the development started before 10 Nov 2016, it need to comply with NPP requirements. Failure to do so will be subjected to sanctions.
A certified smallholder group carry out new plantings (expansion outside their certified plantation) now. Do they have to demonstrate compliance to P7 and submit NPP?	<p>A certified group carrying out new plantings since 10 Nov 2016 has to ensure full compliance to P7 but do not have to submit the NPP.</p> <p>If the new plantings were done before 10 Nov 2016, then they have to comply to both (P7 and NPP). Failing to do so will subject them to sanctions.</p>

As requested by the Resolutions, RSPO Secretariat will carry out the review specifically focused on simplification and inclusiveness of the NPP and shall specifically include smallholder peculiarities and conditions in defining its applicability. Similarly, the Secretariat will look into the production of detailed guidance on realistic internal social and environmental impact assessments, high conservation value assessment and all other assessments that may be required as part of new planting requirements for smallholders.

The RSPO Secretariat will work with the internal and external stakeholders to carry out the review and the final document will be tabled to the RSPO Board of Governors for endorsement. An announcement will be made within six months to lift the reprieve.

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