



# ProTerra Standard

Chain of Custody Models



# Who we are

The ProTerra Foundation is a non-for-profit organization, located in the Netherlands, that envisages a world where all businesses contribute to the protection of biodiversity by switching to sustainable production, conserve natural resources and ensure that workers and local communities are treated with dignity and respect.



**Certification is the main direct approach for a company to address the responsibility of the raw materials currently within their supply chain. Besides, certification plays an important part in holding companies accountable for their sustainability commitments.**

ProTerra Foundation is the owner of the **ProTerra Standard**<sup>1</sup>, specialized in promoting social and environmental sustainability through the food and supply chains.

Besides emphasizing general product sustainability, the **ProTerra Standard stresses the importance of non-GMO**, and is applicable to all levels of the food and feed production chain: **Level I:** Agricultural production; **Level II:** Transport, Storage, Traders and Dealers and **Level III:** Industrial Processing.

Two strategies are adopted for **minimizing the risk of GMOs**:

- **Traceability**, which enables the market to have a full view over a product's journey, making it possible to identify if and where GMOs were used.
- **Chain of Custody (CoC)** which refers to a **paper trail that records the sequence of custody**, control and transfer of materials. It is evidence of ownership of the materials and permits tracing back their physical movement. Chain of custody requirements apply to all levels.

**Traceability is the ability to demonstrate the Chain of Custody.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.proterrafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ProTerra-Standard-V5.0\\_EN\\_24.pdf](https://www.proterrafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/ProTerra-Standard-V5.0_EN_24.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.isealalliance.org/sites/default/files/resource/2017-11/ISEAL\\_Chain\\_of\\_Custody\\_Models\\_Guidance\\_September\\_2016.pdf](https://www.isealalliance.org/sites/default/files/resource/2017-11/ISEAL_Chain_of_Custody_Models_Guidance_September_2016.pdf)



# ProTerra Supply Chain Models

The ProTerra Standard offers and describes the following supply chain models:

## Identity Preservation/Identity Preserved (IP)

Use of segregation and traceability procedures to maintain the identity of specific lots of agricultural or processed products throughout all stages of production, maintenance, transportation, storage and processing. IP is primarily used to preserve the authenticity of defined traits or characteristics of products, one of which is the ProTerra-certified status of the product.

### Segregation

The system of facilities, equipment, and procedures through which an Economic Operator keeps material bound to ProTerra certification physically separated from non-ProTerra certified material from the point of receipt to the point of transfer to the next Economic Operator in the chain of custody.

## Mass Balance (MB) System

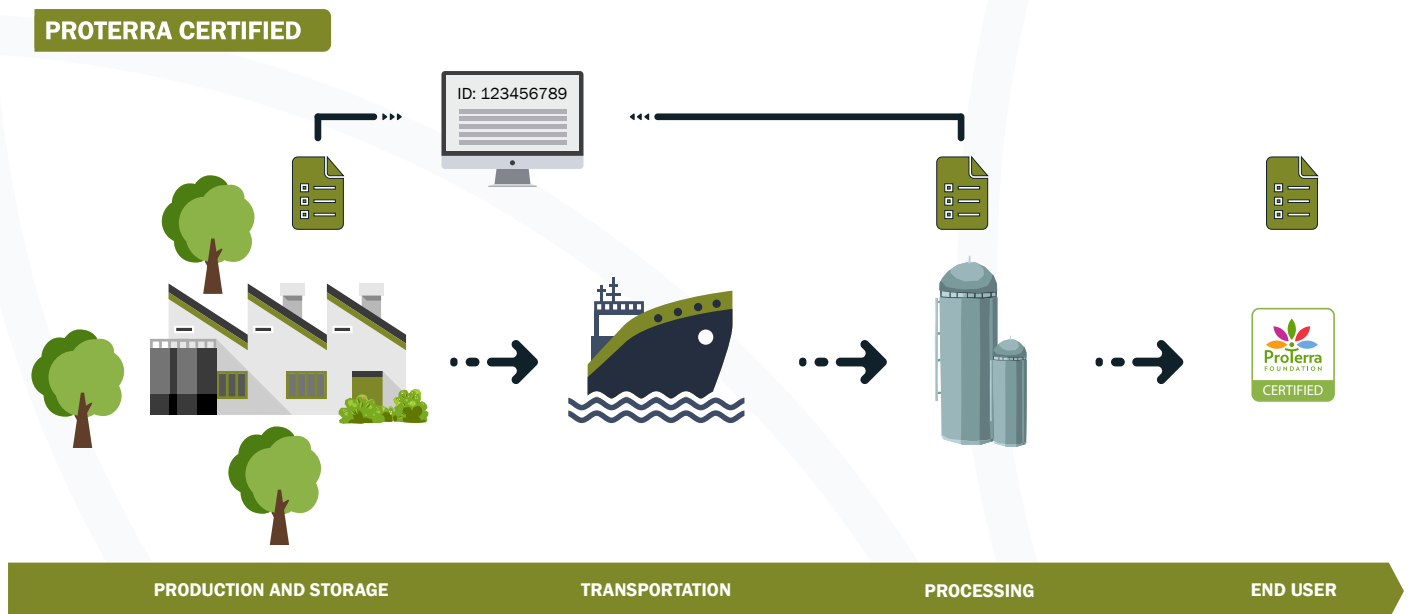
A system to control of the input quantities and the equivalent output of certified material/products in each stage of the supply chain, considering conversion rates, in case of processing. In cases where ProTerra certified material is mixed with other non-certified material, it must be verified that the non-certified material used shall be tested for the absence of pesticides and does not originate from deforested areas and has not been produced using forced or child labour.



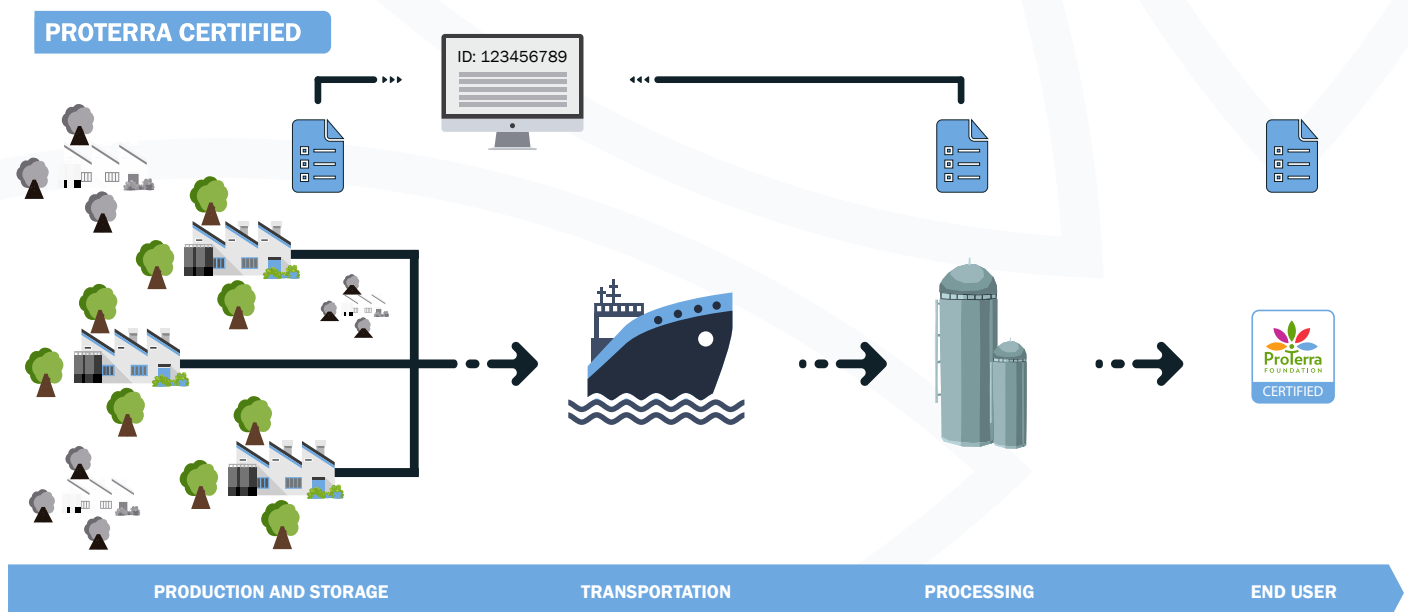
# ProTerra Supply Chain Models

ProTerra Standard falls into what is called **physical chain of custody scheme**, involving the production of sustainable soy, and this then flowing into a company's direct supply chain.

The **IP model** applies segregation and traceability procedures to maintain the identity of specific lots of agricultural or processed products throughout all stages of production, maintenance, transportation, storage and processing. IP is primarily used to preserve the authenticity of defined traits or characteristics of products.<sup>3</sup>



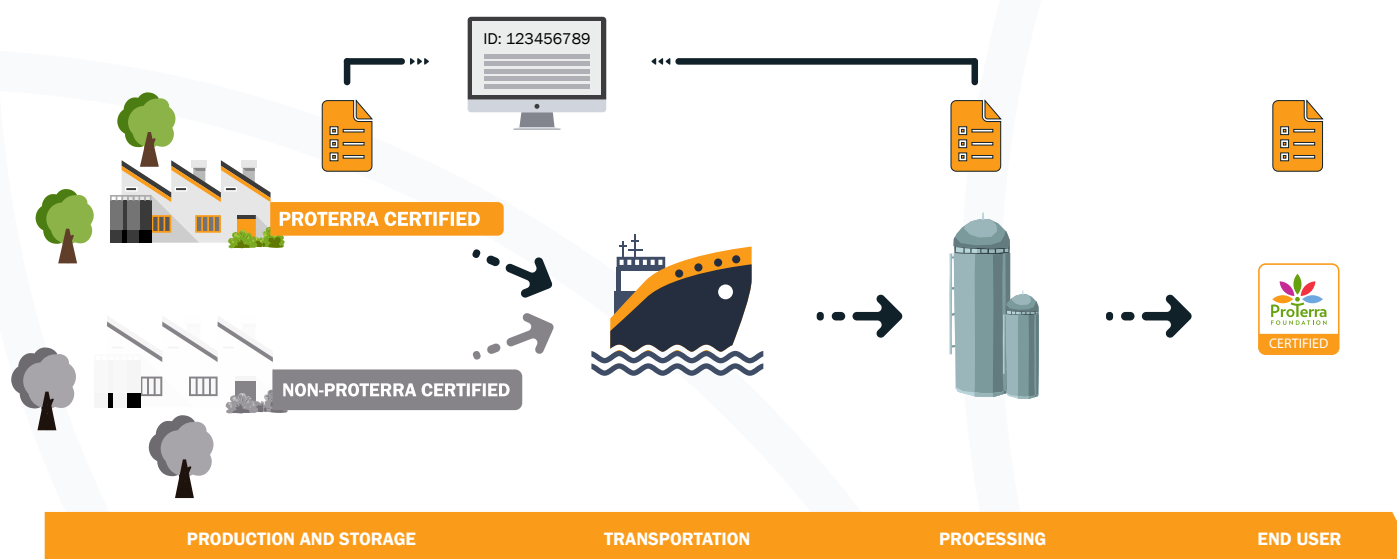
In a **segregated model**, each economic operator will use a system of facilities, equipment, and procedures to keep ProTerra certified material physically separated from non-ProTerra certified material throughout the supply chain.



<sup>3</sup><https://www.efeca.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Soya-Certification-Options-Briefing-2020.pdf>



A **mass balance model** shall guarantee a system for control of the input quantities and equivalent output of certified material/products in each stage of the supply chain, considering conversion rates, in case of processing. The volume of certified product entering the operation is controlled, and an equivalent amount can then be sold as certified. Non-certified material shall be tested for the absence of pesticides and verified that it does not originate from deforested areas and has not been produced using forced or child labour.



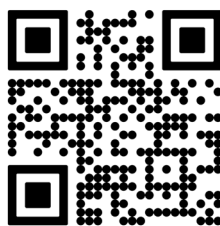
ProTerra supports IP, segregated and mass balance CoC models. Third-party accredited certification bodies assure compliance with the Standard.





**Have questions or want to learn more?**

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