

Guidance to the Chain of Custody Models according to the ProTerra Standards

(ProTerra Standard V5.0
and ProTerra MRV Standard V1.0)



Who we are

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

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

ProTerra Foundation owns the **ProTerra Standards**¹, and specialises in promoting social and environmental sustainability through the food and supply chains.

Two strategies are adopted for **minimising the risk of GMOs and non-sustainable practices**:

- **Traceability** refers to the ability to track and verify the history and location of a material's movement through defined stages of production, processing and distribution.
- **Chain of Custody (CoC)**, which refers to a **documented 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.

Chain of Custody Model: The general term to describe the approach taken to demonstrate the link (physical or administrative) between the verified unit of production and claim about the final product²

¹ https://www.proterrafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ProTerra-Standard-V5.0_EN.pdf

² https://www.proterrafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ProTerra-MRV-Standard-v1.0_EN.pdf

² https://www.isealalliance.org/sites/default/files/resource/2017-11/ISEAL_Chain_of_Custody_Models_Guidance_September_2016.pdf

The scope of this document

This guidance provides information on the Chain of Custody (CoC) models that are accepted under ProTerra Standards (ProTerra Standard V5.0 and MRV Standard V1.0). These Guidelines are binding for all ProTerra certified organisation, meaning that CoC models not considered herein cannot be used to trace certified commodities.

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

ProTerra Standard V5.0

Under ProTerra V5.0, in addition to considering one of the CoC models detailed herein, the Economic Operations must follow the requirements under PRINCIPLE 10: Traceability and Chain of Custody.

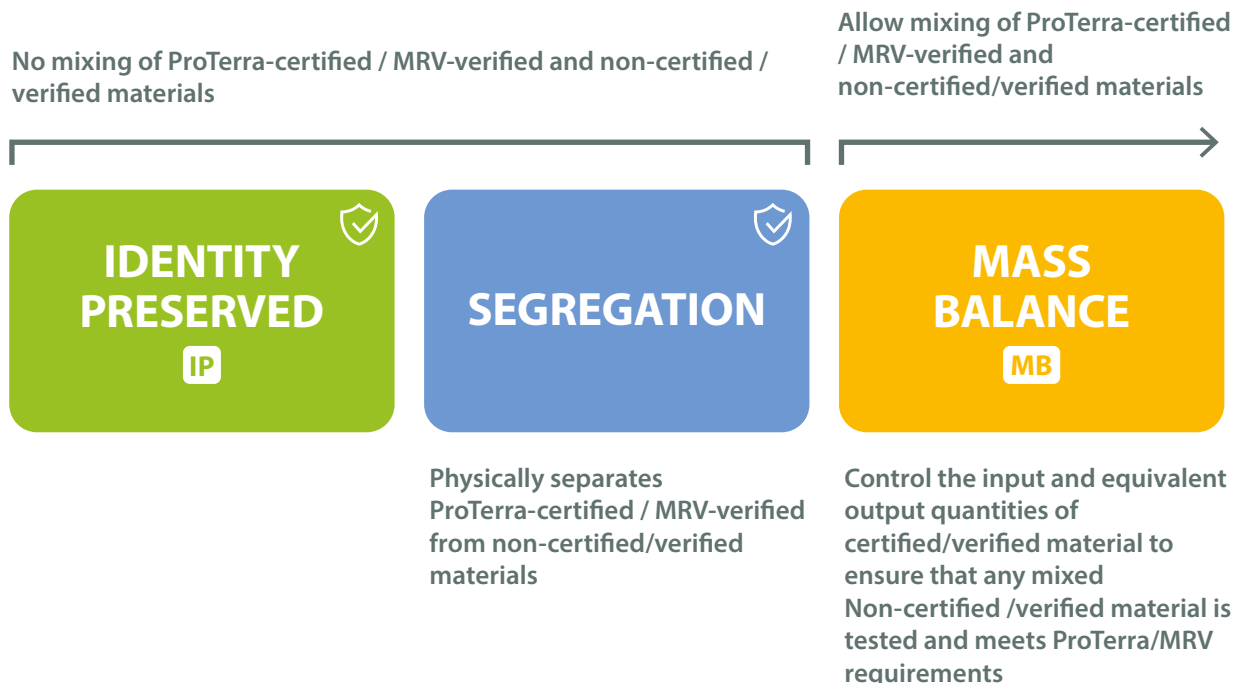
ProTerra MRV Standard V1.0

Under ProTerra MRV Standard V1.0, the economic operator must develop, implement and maintain a traceability and chain of custody system that enables tracking agricultural inputs back to the farm, and they must also fully comply with the requirement under 3.10.



ProTerra Supply Chain Models

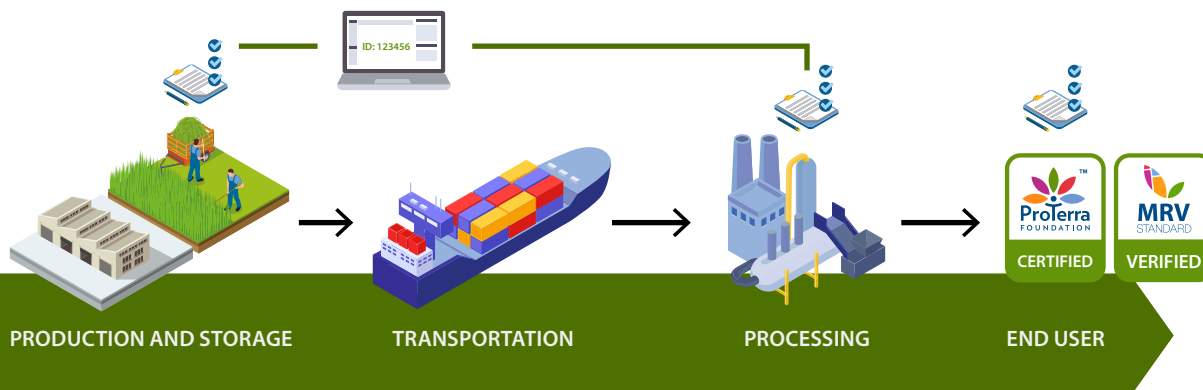
The following supply chain models are enforced by the ProTerra Standards:



Identity Preservation/Identity Preserved (IP)

Use of segregation and traceability procedures to maintain the identity of specific lots or processed products throughout all stages of production, transportation, storage and processing. IP is primarily used to preserve the authenticity of defined traits or characteristics of products, one of which is the certification/verification status of the product³.

ProTerra-certified / MRV-verified



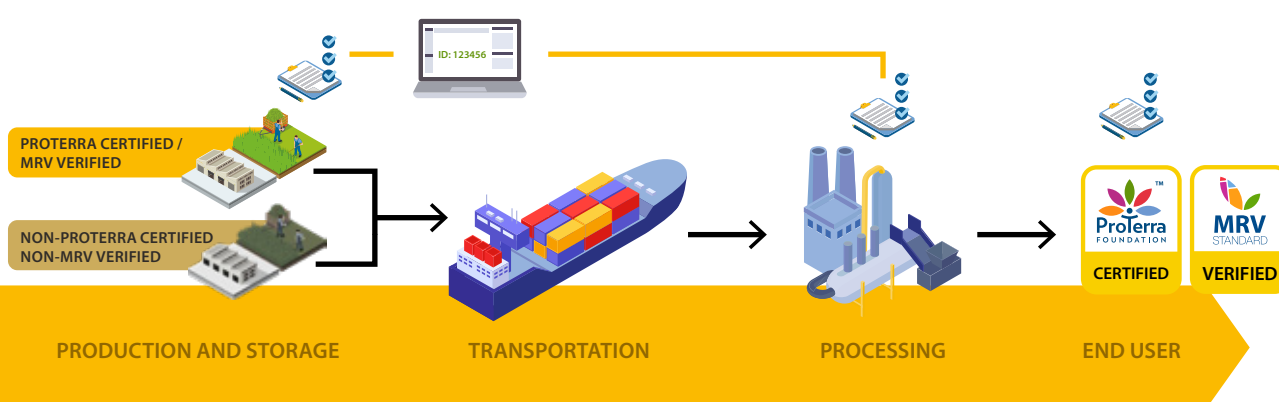
³Soya-Certification-Options-Briefing-2020.pdf

Mass Balance (MB) System

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. In cases where ProTerra-certified or PT MRV-verified material is mixed with other material, it must be verified that the non-ProTerra-certified or non-PT MRV verified material used is tested for the absence of pesticides, and does not originate from deforested areas and has not been produced using forced or child labour.

In the case of ProTerra certification, the absence of GMOs is also to be verified.

ProTerra-certified / MRV-verified

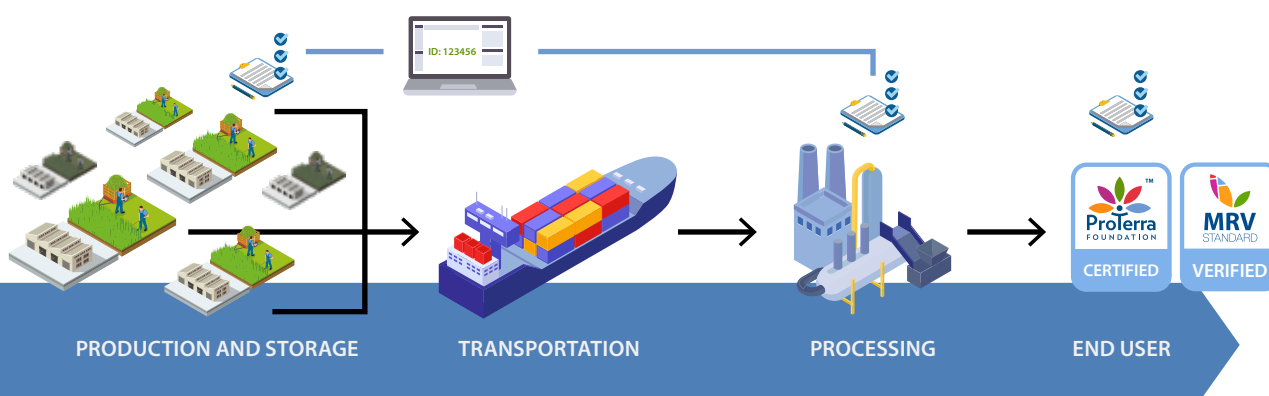


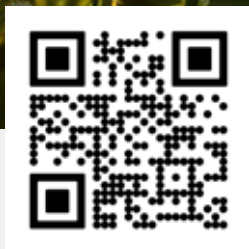
ProTerra supports IP, segregated and mass balance CoC models. Third-party accredited certification bodies assure compliance with ProTerra Standards.

Segregation

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

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