

UEBT offers both certification and verification programmes for ingredients. This fact sheet summarizes some of the most important differences between the two approaches.

#### **UEBT** certification

UEBT certification follows a well-recognised, structured process for assessing compliance with the UEBT standard.

Certification at UEBT involves an annual audit by an external (third-party) certification body that has been accredited by UEBT. When a company or organisation achieves UEBT certification of their ingredients, they can make consumer-facing claims and use the UEBT certification label. Certificates are renewed each year through an annual audit process.

Certification always looks at the full set of requirements (called the 'ethical sourcing requirements') inside the UEBT standard.

#### **UEBT** verification

UEBT verification is more flexible than certification. Unlike certification, verification is offered using two different sets of requirements from the UEBT standard and companies can choose the approach that is best for their strategy:

- Responsible sourcing requirements these are requirements in the UEBT standard that are good for mitigating negative impact, meeting due diligence programmes, or for managing risk.
- **Ethical sourcing requirements** these include all of the responsible sourcing requirements plus requirements that promote positive impact for people and biodiversity.

If a company asks for an attestation of the level of performance against either set of requirements, UEBT can issue an official document and attest to the verification. However, this is not the same as an ingredient being 'certified.'

For more information on the details of the different sets of requirements download our fact sheet on Assessing ingredient sourcing practices: UEBT verification

#### THE UEBT ETHICAL BIOTRADE STANDARD

UEBT has set an Ethical BioTrade Standard with good practices for people and biodiversity.

Respect



Fair and equitable

benefit sharing

for Biodiversity



Biodiversity conservation



Legal compliance



Respect for People



Systems for ethical sourcing



Clarity of land tenure



Respect for worker rights



## SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES

### **UEBT verification**

Focuses on either the responsible sourcing requirements in the UEBT standard.

#### OR

Focuses on the full UEBT standard that includes all UEBT ethical sourcing requirements (similar to certification).

Audit is done by UEBT.

Attestation issued by UEBT with compliance information (optional, upon request).

Audit frequency more flexible, and can be valid for up to three years when all 'critical stepwise' indicators have been met.

Diagnoses or recommendations made directly to the company requesting the verification.

Limited off-pack text claims and internal communications allowed, but there are no labelling opportunities:

- Claims can be made of UEBT verified responsibly sourced [name of ingredient] linked to the ingredient and UEBT verification if UEBT issues an attestation for assessments focused on the responsible sourcing requirements of the UEBT standard). Claim must be off-pack and cannot be product-related (only for general or corporate communications). If the off-pack text claim is consumer-facing (such as in a sustainability report), additional conditions apply including UEBT membership.
- Claims can be made of UEBT verified ethically sourced [name of ingredient] linked to the ingredient and UEBT verification if UEBT issues an attestation for assessments focused on the full set of ethical sourcing requirements in the UEBT standard). Claims must be off-pack but can be product-related (such as a product web page). If the off-pack text claim is consumer-facing, additional conditions apply including UEBT membership.

## **UEBT** certification

Focuses on the full UEBT standard that includes all UEBT ethical sourcing requirements.

Auditor is from an external certification body accredited by UEBT.

Certificate of compliance issued by UEBT.

Certificate valid for one year, renewed through an annual audit by a certification body.

Decision on certification made by certification body, validated by UEBT certification committee.



Consumer-facing claims of 'UEBT certified' or 'UEBT certified ethically sourced' allowed.

Opportunities to use the UEBT customisable certification label (shown left).

## CARRYING OUT THE VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT

## This work consists of the following steps:





Prepare and gather information

Company expresses interest and submits a questionnaire.

UEBT reviews it and gathers information from the supply chain.





**Define plan** 

UEBT plans the assessment according to the supply chain reality.

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## **Conduct field visit**

A visit may take between one and five days depending on the complexity of your supply chain.



Opening meeting, review of relevant documentation for the verification.

Interviews with farmers, collectors or workers.

Closing meeting to share main findings and to discuss potential improvement plan.



## Agree on improvement

UEBT prepares a report and supports you in defining improvement measures.



Report shared with the company that requested the verification. Company proposes an improvement plan.

The plan is reviewed and approved by the company. UEBT provides potential support.

If formal attestation of the verification is required, company submits additional evidence. UEBT issues attestation.



# Follow-up on

implementation





The company working with UEBT follows up on the implementation of the improvement plan with suppliers directly.

If desired, UEBT can support on implementation.





**Verification renewal** 

Verification attestation may be renewed on expiry (usually between 1–3 years) by contacting UEBT for a subsequent verification.

## CARRYING OUT THE CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

## This work consists of the following steps:





**Submit application** 

The potential certificate holder submits an application. UEBT reviews and approves it.





Potential certificate holder conducts internal inspections, using the UEBT Field Checklist, of their supply chains or their farm to ensure all required practices are in place.





Choose certification body Potential certificate holder chooses a UEBT-approved certification body and begins to plan for their external audit.



## **External assessment** takes place

A visit may take between one and five days depending on the complexity of your supply chain.



Certification body performs an audit on-site to check compliance.

Auditors look at the physical areas of wild collection or harvest, and the conditions under which people work, both in the sourcing areas and in the processing of raw materials.

This includes an inspection of forests and/or agricultural lands, and interviews with harvesters, farmers, farm workers, smallholders, and/or pickers.

Corrective actions may be required within a defined timeframe.



## Certification cision is made



Your UEBT certificate allows you to make consumer-facing claims of 'UEBT certified' and to use the UEBT certification label

A recommendation for a certification decision is made by the certification body.

UEBT certification committee validates the decision of the certification body.

If decision is positive, UEBT issues certificate and communicates with the certificate holder.

Certificate must be renewed annually via an annual audit process.

#### **Contact us**

To get started or learn more, contact: info@uebt.org



#### **UEBT**

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