



RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

OPERATOR
IMPLEMENTATION
GUIDE



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I. INTRODUCTION

Aramark’s mission is to enrich and nourish lives means ensuring a foundation of providing safe, nutritious, quality food is core to who we are. Our commitment to health, wellness and sustainability are central to these tenets.

We firmly believe responsible sourcing has a direct impact on our local and global economies, the health and wellbeing of people and animals, and conservation of the environment.

Through Green Thread, our environmental sustainability platform, we are focused on increasing the procurement of local, seasonal and responsibly raised, grown and sourced products.

The Green Thread platform comes to life through our responsible sourcing practices. Successful launch of the platform starts with review and implementation of our Responsible Sourcing Operational Requirements.

What is Responsible Sourcing?

The term “responsible” is used synonymously with “sustainable”. Both terms describe a variety of attributes that seek to minimize impacts – or contribute positively - to the environment, farm animals, people or communities.

This broad terminology could include products such as locally grown, humanely-raised, energy-efficient, recyclable, and more. Visit the [Consumer Reports Greener Choices](#) website to learn about sustainable product certifications.



II. IMPORTANCE OF RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

According to the World Wildlife Fund, in the next 40 years, increased demand for food will put pressure on agricultural, aquaculture and fishing resources that are already strained.

For example, seafood is one of the most popular proteins in the world and yet global demand continues to increase with a growing world population. In fact, according to the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization¹, 90 percent of the world's wild-capture fisheries are at risk - threatened by overfishing or harvesting practices that creates undue stress on the environment and other marine life. Additionally, awareness of human rights violations, labor abuses, and other social impacts are on the rise across wild-capture and aquaculture fisheries.

At Aramark, we recognize the increasing pressure on our food systems due to global issues such as resource scarcity, volatile commodity markets, and labor inequalities. We appreciate consumers growing interest on issues that affect them, their communities and the world. We have an opportunity to address myriad environmental, social and economic issues while reducing risk and driving innovation.

III. OUR APPROACH

At Aramark, we develop and implement responsible sourcing programs and practices, tracking our progress as we improve. Through our sourcing practices, we aim to:

- Ensure sustainable management and responsible use of natural resources.
- Support local economies and strengthen community-based suppliers.
- Support productive fisheries and responsible aquaculture.
- Foster humane and responsible care and treatment of farm animals.
- Support fair treatment and compensation of workers throughout the supply chain.
- Drive increased sourcing transparency throughout the supply chain.

We work in partnership with our suppliers to meet our sourcing commitments and to improve transparency and reporting. With every purchase we engage suppliers and partners in an effort to source environmentally and socially responsible products.

Our Sustainable Sourcing Council includes members of our senior leadership team, and sets direction and drives accountability for our strategy, priorities and objectives. Through our external Sustainable Sourcing Advisory Panel, we also engage a broad group of stakeholders - including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry and academia - to help shape our approach.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/resources/infographics/infographics-details/en/c/231544/>



IV. OUR COMMITMENTS

We've taken important steps to advance our sourcing practices in a responsible and ethical way. To drive measureable change, we have established the following focus areas and commitments:

- **Locally Sourced:** Purchase local produce grown within 250 miles and from community-based producers, whenever possible.
- **Humanely-Raised:** Purchase humanely-raised animal proteins including cage-free shell eggs by 2015, cage-free liquid eggs by 2020, broiler chickens by 2024 and group housed pork by 2017, as detailed in [Aramark's Animal Welfare Principles and Policy](#).
- **Sustainable Seafood:** Purchase 100% sustainable seafood by 2018 including fresh, frozen and shelf-stable seafood products for both wild-caught and farm-raised seafood, as detailed in [Aramark's Sustainable Seafood Principles and Policy](#).

In addition to supporting and adhering to our responsible sourcing principles and policies, all of the suppliers, vendors and distributors must abide by our Aramark's Supplier Code of Conduct, which covers standards around environmental compliance, labor, safety standards and more. This standard applies to authorized suppliers of goods and services to Aramark locations managed by Aramark in North America.

Our Definition

Locally Sourced

At Aramark, we define locally sourced as grown, raised or caught within 250 miles (400km) of the Aramark location. Whenever possible, we strive to purchase products from small-scale community-based producers that are independently or cooperatively owned enterprises.

Humanely Raised

Through our [Animal Welfare Principles and Policy](#) we are addressing issues impacting the treatment of animals for egg, meat and dairy products served in the U.S. Our Global Principles on farm animal welfare are based upon the "five freedoms" developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC) of the United Kingdom.

Sustainable Seafood

Through our [Sustainable Seafood Principles and Policy](#), we are addressing issues impacting wild-caught and farm-raised products served in the U.S. In the U.S., we define sustainably sourced products as species recognized by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch® program as green "Best Choice" or yellow "Good Alternative", as well as specific eco-certified products² recommended by Seafood Watch, including but not limited to certain species certified by organizations such as the Marine Stewardship Council, Aquaculture Stewardship Council or Global Aquaculture Alliance.

² <http://www.seafoodwatch.org/seafood-recommendations/eco-certification>



V. IMPLEMENTATION

Successful launch of the platform starts with review and implementation of our Responsible Sourcing Operational Requirements. The following Requirements must be implemented before using the Green Thread logo and consumer marketing materials.

NOTE: ALL Aramark locations must implement the Responsible Sourcing Operational Requirements. If your client prohibits the use of Green Thread branded marketing materials, your location may use the marketing materials without the Green Thread logo. Otherwise, ALL Aramark locations must use Green Thread branded materials.

Prerequisites

1) Adhere to Aramark's Operational Standards.

Adhere to Aramark's operational standards in Food Management, Safety & Risk Control and Global Supply Chain & Procurement, including purchasing from Authorized Suppliers, to ensure your location is meeting Aramark's responsible sourcing commitments.

All operational standards, specified products and specified programs are available on the Global Operational Excellence website ([click here](#)).

2) Purchase from Aramark's Authorized Suppliers.

When sourcing any products – including, but not limited to, locally sourced, humanely-raised or sustainable seafood products, all accounts must purchase from our authorized suppliers.

Authorized Suppliers are defined as a vendor, distributor, or manufacturer that Global Supply Chain and Procurement (GSC&P) has authorized to do business with a component for food-related products or services. Purchases from Authorized Suppliers count as a positive measurement on your Compliance Reports.

To locate authorized suppliers specifically for your location reference your My Authorized Supplier List (MASL) located in SIM on aramark.net ([click here](#)).

Action Steps

- 1) Review Aramark's Responsible Sourcing Commitments** to understand our objectives.
- 2) Implement Operational Requirements** to ensure compliance with our commitments.
- 3) Display Marketing Materials** to promote our sourcing practices.



Category	Action Steps		
	Our Sourcing Commitments	Operational Requirements	Marketing Materials
Locally Sourced	We purchase local produce sourced within 250-miles of our locations from community-based suppliers, where possible.	<p>If and when your location needs to purchase locally sourced produce, contact your Produce Suppliers, communicate Aramark's definition of local, and inquire about product availability and pricing.</p> <p>At a minimum, all locations must adhere to Aramark's definition of locally-sourced. More stringent requirements detailed by the client may supersede our definition.</p> <p>Produce Suppliers should be able to provide local produce hot sheets, farm profiles, and product availability within specific growing seasons.</p>	Display the local sourcing marketing materials available on aramark.net .
Humanely-Raised	Through our Animal Welfare Principles and Policy we are addressing issues impacting the treatment of animals for egg, meat and dairy products served in the U.S.	<p>Purchase from our Authorized Suppliers to ensure your account is sourcing products that meet our specifications, per Aramark's Animal Welfare Principles and Policy.</p>	Display Aramark's Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net .



<p>Cage-Free Shell Eggs</p>	<p>In January 2016, we completed our transition to cage-free shell eggs across the U.S.</p> <p>To ensure Aramark's purchase of cage-free shell eggs, all shell eggs must be 3rd party certified by one of the following: USDA Organic; United Egg Producers (cage-free specified); Animal Welfare Approved; Certified Humane; and American Humane Certified.</p>	<p>All shell eggs must be purchased through Sysco or one of our shell egg Authorized Suppliers.</p> <p>Any egg purchased with a shell on it MUST be cage-free, including but not limited to: pre-cooked hard-boiled eggs; and eggs available for sale in c-stores.</p> <p>Some products may not include the 3rd party certification label on the box, however suppliers can provide validation of the certification.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>
<p>Cage-Free Liquid Eggs</p>	<p>In 2016, we committed to transition our purchases of liquid, pre-cracked, eggs in the U.S. by 2020, or sooner if possible.</p>	<p>As we begin this transition process, operational details will be communicated to the field.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>
<p>Group Housed Pork</p>	<p>In 2012, we committed to transition our purchases to group housed pork in the U.S. by 2017.</p>	<p>As we begin this transition process, operational details will be communicated to the field.</p> <p>Our transition to group housed pork will occur over several years. Products will not be labeled as group housed due to lack of traceability throughout the production process.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>
<p>Crate Free</p>	<p>In 2015, we committed</p>	<p>Any location purchasing</p>	<p>Display Aramark's</p>



<p>Veal</p>	<p>to eliminate the purchase of all veal from animals confined in crates in the U.S. by 2017.</p>	<p>veal products must ensure the veal comes from crate-free facilities as of December 2017.</p> <p>The supplier and/or distributor must provide documentation demonstrating the veal products meet or exceed our expectations.</p> <p>Our commitment is in alignment with the American Veal Association's 2007 resolution calling for all U.S. veal producers to transition to group housing methods by December 31, 2017.</p>	<p>Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>
<p>Ducks and Geese (Fole Gras)</p>	<p>In 2011, we committed to eliminate the purchase of all foie gras in the U.S. We remain committed to this position and have blocked this product from availability.</p>	<p>Aramark does not purchase any foie gras and does not have an approved product. Please make sure your location adheres to this policy.</p> <p>Aramark Global Supply Chain & Procurement (GSC&P) along with business unit leaders continue to track non-complaint purchases to ensure operators are adhering to Aramark's sourcing commitments.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>
<p>Broiler Chickens</p>	<p>In 2016, we committed to ask our suppliers to implement additional humane conditions for the treatment of broiler chickens by taking specific actions - detailed in our Animal</p>	<p>As we begin this transition process, operational details will be communicated to the field.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Animal Welfare Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>



	<p>Welfare Principles & Policy - by 2024, or sooner if possible.</p>		
<p>Sustainable Seafood</p>	<p>We are committed to purchasing 100% of our contracted seafood from sustainable sources by 2018.</p> <p>This announcement was made in 2008 with the support of our long-time partner, Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch® program.</p> <p>Through our Sustainable Seafood Principles and Policy we are addressing issues impacting wild-caught and farm-raised products served in the U.S.</p>	<p>Purchase from our Authorized Suppliers to ensure your account is sourcing products that meet our specifications, per Aramark's Sustainable Seafood Principles and Policy.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Sustainable Seafood Commitment "What's the Catch" available on aramark.net.</p>
<p>Frozen Fin Fish</p>		<p>All frozen fin fish (Cod, Pollock, Pangasius, Catfish) must be purchased through our contracted specified supplier, High Liner Foods.</p> <p>All products sourced by High Liner Foods meet Seafood Watch Good or Best Choice. These products purchased through Sysco have been "mapped" to the specified product.</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Sustainable Seafood Commitment "What's the Catch" available on aramark.net</p>
<p>Canned Tuna</p>	<p>In April 2016, we completed our transition to sustainably sourced</p>	<p>All skipjack and albacore tuna products – including canned, pouches, etc. -</p>	<p>Display Aramark's Canned Tuna</p>



	<p>canned skipjack and albacore tuna across the U.S.</p> <p>All skipjack canned tuna products are from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fisheries; and all albacore canned tuna products are pole and-line caught or, whenever available, from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fisheries.</p> <p><i>NOTE: While Aramark's canned tuna purchases are from Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certified fisheries, the majority of Aramark locations can NOT promote the product as "MSC Certified". This marketing claim may ONLY be used by Aramark locations that have received MSC Chain of Custody (CoC) certification for canned tuna.</i></p>	<p>must be purchased through Sysco or an Authorized Supplier.</p> <p>Products have been "mapped" to the appropriate canned tuna products in your local Sysco OPCO. All other canned tuna products are blocked for purchase through Supply Chain by Sysco.</p> <p>Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs) and National Brands may be excluded.</p>	<p>Infographic available on aramark.net.</p>
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Step 4: Secure an "Exception" from Your Business Unit Leadership.

Beyond Aramark's efforts to increase procurement of responsibly sourced products, your account may have a need to source alternative products to meet the needs of your clients and customers. Discuss product needs with your Global Supply Chain & Procurement (GSC&P) [Regional Distribution Manager](#) (RDM). Some products may require an "exception" approval by your RVP or Business Unit President due to potential financial implications.



VI. OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

After your location has implemented the Responsible Sourcing Operational Requirements, you should consider additional optional programs and practices for implementation at your location. Visit aramark.net for tools and resources.

Next Steps – Operator Roadmap

Step #3B: Visit aramark.net to download and display Consumer Marketing material to promote our environmental sustainability practices.