



Understanding SCP Fees and SCC assurance system Costs

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FAQ:

1. What types of fees exist in the SCC assurance system?

- Compliance costs: a company's own costs to meet the standard (e.g. training programmes, internal systems, inputs). These depend on chosen interventions of the standard, supply-chain risk, existing systems, and maturity of practices.
- Audit / verification costs: paid directly to independent verification bodies, not to SCP.
- For SCP-verified sustainable coconut products, a volume-based issuance fee applies. This fee is charged once along the supply chain, at the point where certified volumes are first placed on the market or claimed. It includes a per-ton issuance fee and registry fee linked to issued units.

2. What are the costs of compliance and how is SCP is designed to be cost-effective?

The cost of compliance under SCC (applying the standard) is intentionally designed to be the most cost-effective system for coconut supply chains.

Compliance costs are not paid to SCP, they are a company's own costs to meet the standard.

Designed for the sector, by the sector. It is proportionate to needs on the ground, risk-based, adapted to small holder environments with requirements spread across the supply chain. Unlike “one-size-fits-all” certification pass/fail models, SCP’s Assurance System focuses resources where risks and needs are with a progressive grading system, which significantly reduces costs of blanket compliance across generic areas.

What drives compliance costs in practice?

Compliance costs mainly depend on:

- interventions chosen and local cost (trainings, intrants, incentives)
- the level of risk in the supply chain,
- the existing systems and data already in place,
- the scope and maturity of sustainability practices,

In many cases, companies already meeting basic due-diligence expectations face limited additional compliance costs.

SCP keeps costs low through risk-based assurance, recognition of existing systems, progressive compliance, and group approaches that allow cost sharing.



3. What does the Issuance Fee cover and how is it charged?

The issuance fee (around \$5/ton for coconut oil) is not an audit fee and not a margin on volumes.

It supports the operation and credibility of the SCP system, including governance of the Sustainable Coconut Charter, system oversight, assurance and verification management, IT and traceability infrastructure, and continuous improvement of requirements.

This fee structure is comparable to those used by all other sustainability systems and is within accepted market practice as defined by SCP steering Committee.

The issuance fee is a one-off contribution per verified volume, charged at the first eligible point in the supply chain. Once a ton has been verified and the contribution paid, it is not charged again, including in future years. The same ton is never charged twice.

4. Is this issuance fee the same for different coconut products, i.e. oil, desiccated, sugar, charcoal, water?

No.

5. Why did SCP choose a volume-based model instead of an annual licence fee?

SCP is designed to work across complex, multi-actor supply chains and to focus on real volumes, impacts, and traceability. The issuance fee links costs directly to use of the system, supports fairness across different types and sizes of operators, and avoids fees being driven by factors unrelated to coconut volumes.

6. Will SCP fees decrease over time?

SCP reviews its fee structure on a regular basis to ensure it remains transparent, proportionate, and fit for purpose. Fee levels may be adjusted over time in line with system needs and governance decisions and are intended to decrease as SCP membership and verified volumes grow.

7. Who can I contact if I want a breakdown for my specific case?

The Sustainable Coconut Partnership team is happy to walk you through the fee structure and how it applies to your supply chain. Just get in touch to set up a short call.



Fee schedule:



SCC ASSURANCE SYSTEM FEES LIST: ORIGIN & SUPPLY CHAIN STANDARD

VERSION: 2026



ORIGIN STANDARD

Registry Fee	Issuance Fee (per ton)	5 USD/Mt coconut oil			
	Issuance Fee (per certificate)	Small ¹	Medium ¹	Large ¹	Extra Large ¹
		500 USD	1,000 USD	1,500 USD	3,000 USD

¹

- Small: <3 days audit // >200 Mt CNO
- Medium: 3-5 days audit // >800 Mt CNO
- Large: 5-12 days audit // >1,000 Mt CNO
- Extra Large: >12 days audit // >10,000 Mt CNO

SUPPLY CHAIN STANDARD

Registry Fee	Standard fee for each certificate issued	750 USD
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