

ECO

By  expocacer

Annual Exceptions Impact Report

Publication Date: 10/10/2024

Patrocínio, MG – 2024

1. Introduction

Expocacer Control Origin – ECO by Expocacer Protocol was designed to ensure compliance with the criteria of the Global Coffee Platform (GCP), aiming to promote sustainable and responsible practices in coffee production in the Cerrado Mineiro region. The protocol establishes requirements that must be met by all producers by the end of the first certification cycle.

However, recognizing that certain exceptional conditions may temporarily prevent the implementation of some criteria, the protocol provides for the possibility of granting exceptions. This report aims to assess the impact of these exceptions and ensure that, even in exceptional situations, sustainability objectives are maintained.

This is the first exceptional impact report since the implementation of the protocol, covering the period from January 2023 to September 2024.

2. Exception Request and Approval Process

The ECO by Expocacer establishes that, in cases of impossibility of meeting a criterion due to structural, physical or financial issues, the producer can formally request an exception from the EXPOCACER Sustainability Department. This request must be justified with supporting documentation, and the case will be analyzed by an administrative committee composed of members of the sustainability and administrative departments of EXPOCACER.

Exceptions are granted only for specific and temporary situations, and critical criteria and unacceptable practices are not subject to exception. Once approved, the exception is transparently communicated to all parties involved, such as auditors, appraisers, and customers. In addition, all exceptions are documented and available on the ECO by Expocacer Protocol portal.

3. Monitoring and Transparency

Approved exceptions are continuously monitored to ensure that they do not cause adverse impacts to the community, the environment, or producers' progress in meeting the protocol's criteria. Periodic reports are generated to assess the practical effects of the exceptions granted and ensure that corrective measures are being applied appropriately.

Should any issues or misalignments be identified, EXPOCACER will review and adjust the exceptions procedure, transparently communicating the changes to all stakeholders.

4. Frequency of Disclosure of this Report

This report will be published annually, covering all data relating to the exceptions granted, with the aim of keeping all stakeholders informed about these exceptions. The disclosure will take place in September of each year.

5. Summary of Exceptions Granted (Current Period)

- Number of Exceptions Requested: 0
- Number of Approved Exceptions: N/A
- Number of Rejected Exceptions: N/A

Since the implementation of the ECO by Expocacer Protocol, there have been no requests for exceptions, which reinforces the ability of producers to meet the established requirements, even in challenging circumstances.

It is important to note that the protocol encourages and maintains a suggestion mechanism for continuous improvement, available in the protocol and on the <http://expocacer.com.br/eco> website. In this way, stakeholders are encouraged to submit their suggestions on the criteria and standards of

the protocol, thus contributing to the evolution and continuous improvement of the Sustainable Coffee Protocol.

6. Impact Analysis

The absence of requested or approved exceptions in the reported period suggests that the protocol is being successfully implemented, without compromising the sustainability standards defined by it. All producers were able to align with the established requirements without the need for flexibility, which strengthens the integrity of the protocol.

7. Conclusion and Next Steps

The absence of exception requests reflects the ability of producers to adapt to the criteria of the ECO by Expocacer Protocol. However, EXPOCACER will continue to closely monitor the exceptions process, ensuring that if it is necessary to temporarily relax any criteria, the measures are taken in a transparent and responsible manner, without compromising sustainability objectives.

The next annual report will continue to provide a detailed view of the impact of exceptions, should they be requested and approved.

Date of Next Report: October 2025.

Version	Revised Topic	Prepared by:	Reviewed by:	Approved by	Approval
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