

# Deforestation-free commodities and products

*Published by AGRINFO on 29 Jan 2023; Revised 09 Jun 2023*

## Regulation

Regulation (EU) [2023/1115](#)

## What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) wants to make sure that it does not contribute to deforestation, both in the EU and in non-EU countries. It is introducing new rules that will apply to imports of products that are known to be important causes of deforestation worldwide.

The new rules apply to cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soya and wood, and to related products such as chocolate, soybean oil, and meat of cattle.

EU companies may only trade and sell these products if they are:

- “Deforestation-free”: products must be produced on land where no deforestation has occurred after 31 December 2020, and
- “Legal”: products must be produced following the laws of the country they come from, such as laws on environmental protection and labour rights.

Non-EU producers and suppliers will have to provide the following information to their EU importers:

- geolocation of all plots of land where the commodities were produced, and
- date or time range of production.

EU companies must undertake due diligence. This means they must confirm that they have collected this information from their suppliers, and have evaluated the risk of their products being connected to deforestation or produced illegally. They can only sell products that they have determined to have little or no risk of deforestation or illegal production.

By the end of 2024, the European Commission will assess the risk of deforestation in each producing country. They will categorise countries as low, standard or high risk. Products can still be imported from any country as long as they are deforestation-free and legal. But while companies importing from standard or high-risk countries will have to do a full risk assessment, imports from low-risk countries will not require a full risk assessment. There will also be more frequent checks on products from high-risk countries. The risk categories will be reviewed regularly.

The European Commission will work with non-EU producing countries and regions to help them transition to producing products that do not cause deforestation and that are legal in the producing country.

## Actions

So that they can provide the information their EU importers will need, producers and exporters of **beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya, rubber and wood** should check whether they already have the geolocation data, and whether they are keeping all the necessary records.

If not, they will need to:

- Check for available systems and technologies for traceability, that can show exactly where products were grown.
- Improve their systems for keeping records and tracing their products, so that they can provide detailed information about how and when products were grown, where they come from, and how the land is managed.
- Talk to their national authorities to understand which rules and laws apply to production, including rules about land rights, and treating workers fairly.

Competent authorities in exporting countries should:

- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of affected supply chains to the EU.
- Check if there are tools available, like satellite imaging, that can show how the land was used for agriculture before and after December 2020.
- Communicate with the private sector about which national laws are relevant to the production of these products.
- Support the establishment of traceability systems, and help producers to establish or demonstrate their rights to use the land.
- Talk to the EU and European businesses to explore ways to work together.

## Timeline

Large EU operators must comply with the due diligence obligations from **30 December 2024**.

EU operators that are micro- and small enterprises (MSMEs) have longer to prepare, and the due diligence obligations will only apply to them from **30 June 2025**.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

**Disclaimer:** *Under no circumstances shall COLEAD be liable for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered that is claimed to have resulted from the use of information available on this website or any link to external sites. The use of the website is at the user's sole risk and responsibility. This information platform was created and maintained with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents do not, however, reflect the views of the European Union.*