

EU Deforestation Regulation: 12 month delay to implementation

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European Commission delays implementation of EU Deforestation Regulation

Regulation (EU) [2024/3234](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards provisions relating to the date of application

Update

On 23 December 2024 the European Commission published a Regulation delaying implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

The EUDR will now apply from **30 December 2025** for large EU companies, and from **30 June 2026** for micro- and small EU companies, 12 months later than originally planned.

Impacted products

Cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya

What is changing?

Under the EUDR (Regulation [2023/1115](#)), EU operators must only trade and sell cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soya, wood and their products on the EU market if they are “deforestation-free” and “legal”. EU companies putting these products on the EU market must issue a due diligence statement that includes the country or countries of production, and geolocation of all plots of land where the products were produced [see [EU Deforestation Regulation \(EUDR\)](#)].

The new rules were originally due to apply from 30 December 2024 for large EU companies, and from 30 June 2025 for micro- and small EU companies.

The EUDR obligations will now apply from **30 December 2025** for large EU companies, and from **30 June 2026** for micro- and small EU companies.

The Regulation’s objectives and detailed requirements remain unchanged.

Under the EUDR, the Commission is also planning to classify countries or regions as low or high risk. Companies importing commodities or products from a country classified as low risk will not have to undertake the full risk assessment required under due diligence. Also, controls by EU Member State authorities will be lower for commodities or products from a low-risk origin. The Commission was due to publish these lists of countries by 30 December 2024, but must now publish them by **30 June 2025**.

Why?

Several trading partners repeatedly expressed concerns that operators in their country were not sufficiently prepared to supply commodities or products covered by the EUDR in line with the new rules by 30 December 2024. Some EU Member States and European stakeholders expressed similar concerns. The extra 12 months provides a phasing-in period to ensure the new rules are implemented effectively. This period will also allow further time for the EU to engage with trading partners that have expressed concerns.

Timeline

This Regulation applies from 26 December 2024.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

This Regulation does not change the steps producers and exporters of beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, and soya must take to meet the new requirements. However, it does provide additional time to put the necessary information and traceability systems in place.

Background

See [EU Deforestation Regulation \(EUDR\)](#).

Resources

European Commission (2024) [Commission strengthens support for EU Deforestation Regulation implementation and proposes extra 12 months of phasing-in time, responding to calls by global partners](#). Press release, 2 October.

Commission website: [Regulation on Deforestation-free Products - EUDR](#)

Commission website: [Obligations for SMEs operating under EUDR](#)

Sources

Regulation (EU) [2024/3234](#) amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards provisions relating to the date of application

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