Prohibition of products made with forced labour

Published by AGRINFO on 07 Feb 2023; Revised 11 Sep 2026

Regulation 2026/903 specifying the details and functionalities of the information and communication system to be used for the purposes of Regulation 2024/3015

Regulation (EU) 2024/3015 on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market (Forced Labour Regulation)

What is changing and why?

Within the European Union (EU), the Forced Labour Regulation prohibits the import and sale (including online) of products made with forced labour, including forced child labour. This includes agri-food products, and covers all stages including harvest, production, and processing.

Businesses must not put any products on the EU market that have been made using forced labour. The rules do not set out in detail the specific actions that companies must take to prevent use of forced labour ("due diligence"), but being able to demonstrate efforts to identify, prevent, and mitigate the use of forced labour will reduce the risk of being investigated.

In September 2026 the European Commission published Guidelines on the application of Regulation 2024/3015 to help stakeholders apply these rules. The Guidelines are for businesses, consumer associations, civil society organisations, trade unions, EU national competent authorities responsible for implementing the rules, and customs authorities. These Guidelines are not legally binding (only the Regulation itself is legally binding).

The Guidelines clarify how a company's due diligence policy can help it comply with the Forced Labour Regulation. Due diligence refers to the processes through which enterprises identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how they address their actual and potential adverse impacts in the supply chain. The Guidelines state that the ban on products made using forced labour applies regardless of where that forced labour occurs, whether at an enterprise's own operation sites, or anywhere within its supply chain.

The Forced Labour Regulation (2024/3015) puts in place information systems that will help the European Commission and EU Member States to collect and share evidence of the use of forced labour, including an online information point where anyone can provide evidence. The European Commission will create a new module within its Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance (ICSMS) that specifically addresses forced labour (Regulation 2026/903). This will provide a platform for the European Commission, EU competent authorities, and customs authorities to exchange information and communicate on investigations.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

Based on information provided by the public and by international organisations, EU Member States will have to assess whether there is a risk that products were produced with forced labour. Where they identify a risk, they will launch an investigation. This will take a risk-based approach focusing on large-scale and severe cases of suspected forced labour, taking into account the quantity of products involved.

During an investigation, EU Member State competent authorities will ask businesses for information. Businesses will have to demonstrate that they have made sufficient efforts ("due diligence") to identify, prevent, mitigate, or bring to an end the use of forced labour. For example, this can include evidence that they have implemented voluntary guidelines or recommendations directed at eliminating forced labour.

After an initial investigation, if there is sufficient evidence, a full investigation will be launched, with a further opportunity for companies to provide information. A final decision is taken by the Commission within 9 months. If this full investigation finds that products were made with forced labour, the companies concerned:

- will not be able to sell the products on the EU market
- will have to withdraw any products already on the EU market
- will have to dispose of the products.

Once a company has demonstrated that it has eliminated forced labour from its supply chain, it can restart trading.

Actions

Non-EU suppliers and importers are advised to put in place monitoring and reporting systems that will reduce the risk of investigations by their EU buyers on the use of forced labour.

Timeline

The Forced Labour Regulation (2024/3015) will apply from **14 December 2027**.

Regulation 2026/903, which will be used in implementing the Forced Labour Regulation, applies from **17 May 2026**.

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.

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*

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.*

Copyright © **COLEAD 2026,** *AGRINFO is funded by the European Union and implemented by COLEAD.*