

What You Need to Know About the EUDR



As part of the European Union's efforts to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, the European Parliament and Council formally adopted the European Union (EU) deforestation-free regulation (EUDR) on June 29, 2023.

This new regulation, which replaces the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) established in March 2013, will require all importers of timber or timber products in the EU to apply a due diligence system that follows a prescribed method with transparency and information along the supply chain.

The EUDR affects seven specific commodities – cocoa, coffee, soy, palm oil, wood, rubber, and cattle – and their derivatives, as well as products made using these commodities (furniture, as an example, in the case of wood). The EUDR will require companies importing these commodities to the EU to prove the products are deforestation-free.

Deforestation-free means the products come from plots of land where no deforestation or forest degradation, as defined in the EUDR, has occurred since December 31, 2020.

The EUDR covers a range of forest products, including sawn timber, wood-based materials, paper, and furniture.

How Can I Comply?

It's recommended that exporters begin preparing for the EUDR requirements now.

The EUDR will apply to all wood harvested from June 29, 2023, and placed on the EU market after December 30, 2024. Any wood harvested after June 29, 2023, but delivered to the EU before December 30, 2024, must adhere to the EUTR.

After December 30, 2024, exporters will need to provide the following information and documentation to comply with the EUDR.

- Product description, including the common name of the species and full scientific name
- Quantity, either by kilograms, volume or number of items, or supplementary unit under the Harmonized System code
- Country of production
- Geo-coordinates of all plots of land where the wood was harvested
- Date or time range of harvest
- Conclusive and verifiable information the wood was legally harvested in accordance with the country's relevant legislation
- Conclusive and verifiable information the wood is deforestation-free

EUDR Timeline

- **May 2003:** The EU adopted the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, which focused on illegal logging and associated trade but it did not address deforestation. The two main components of the FLEGT Action Plan were the EUTR and Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) between the EU and timber producing countries.
- **2014:** New York Declaration on Forests publishes global timeline to slow and end forest loss during the UN Climate Summit 2014.
- **November 2021:** The European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products.
- **December 2022:** The EU agreed on a Regulation for deforestation-free products to guarantee products EU citizens consume do not contribute to deforestation or forest degradation.
- **June 29, 2023:** The European Parliament and Council formally adopted the EUDR.
- **December 30, 2023:** EUDR goes into effect.
- **June 30, 2025:** The EUDR becomes effective for micro and small exporters. Definitions for micro and small exporters have not been determined.