

# - Information on EUDR -

# for suppliers who want to export timber and timber products to the EU

23. August 2023

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) entered into force on 29.06.2023. From 30.12.2024, the EUDR will replace the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR). It obliges all importers of timber or timber products in the EU to apply a due diligence system prior to importing. Importers must collect information and documentation to prove that their wood and wood products has been legally harvested and is deforestation-free, prior to placing these products on the EU market. Deforestation-free means that the wood comes from plots of land where no deforestation or forest degradation as defined in the Regulation has occurred since 31.12.2020.

The EUDR covers a wide range of timber products, including sawn timber, wood-based materials, paper and furniture. The text of the regulation is available <u>here</u>. The scope of the EUDR, including all products covered, can be found in Annex I at the end of the Regulation. Products covered by CITES or FLEGT licenses are also affected by the EUDR.

In future, you will need to provide EU importers (i.e. your customers) with the following information and documentation to enable them to comply with the requirements of the EUDR:

- 1. Tree species (scientific name)
- 2. Country of harvest
- 3. Geo-coordinates of all plots of land where the wood was harvested
- 4. Date or time range of harvest
- 5. Evidence that the wood was legally harvested
- 6. Evidence that the wood is deforestation-free

On page two you will find information on each of these points.

If the required information and evidence is missing, the goods will not be released for import into the EU by the customs authorities. There is a risk of storage charges at EU borders until the necessary information is provided or the goods have to be returned. Importers may also face legal consequences.

The EUDR applies to all wood and wood products harvested from 29.06.2023 and placed on the EU market from 30.12.2024. It is therefore important that you start gathering the necessary information now. Without this information you will no longer be able to export wood products to the EU from 30.12.2024.

A special case applies to wood products harvested from 29.06.2023 and delivered to the EU before 30.12.2024. For these products, importers must apply the EUTR and check that the wood was legally harvested. However, if these products (or wood products made from them) are traded in or exported from the EU after 30.12.2024, importers and their customers will need the information and documentation mentioned above.

We urge all exporters to inform their timber suppliers of this new regulation and forward this document to them. This is the only way your suppliers can provide you with the necessary information in time.

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# **Additional Notes**

# on the information and documentation that importers in the EU will need in the future in order to comply with the requirements of the EUDR:

## 1. Tree species (scientific name)

The scientific names of all tree species (possibly) contained in the product are required. The genus (e.g. *Pinus* spp. or *Eucalyptus* spp.) is not sufficient! Both genus and species must be indicated (e.g. *Pinus radiata* or *Eucalyptus* globulus).

Please note that the European authorities can verify information on tree species by means of laboratory tests (microscopic analysis, genetic analysis).

#### 2. Country of harvest

The name of the country or countries where the wood was harvested is required. If deforestation or legality risks vary within a country, the region must also be indicated.

Please note that the European authorities can verify information on the country of harvest by means of laboratory tests (genetic analysis, isotope analysis).

#### 3. Geo-coordinates of all plots of land where the wood was harvested.

Exact geo-coordinates of all plots of land where the wood contained in the product was (possibly) harvested are required. For plots of 4 hectares or less, one point is sufficient; for plots of more than 4 hectares, a sufficient number of points is required to describe the perimeter of the plot. Coordinates consist of a latitude and a longitude value, with a minimum of at least six decimal places.

Please note that importers are required to enter the quantity of imported products as well as the coordinates for each individual import into an EU online portal. Through this portal, the EU can detect unrealistic information, for example if suppliers send the same coordinates to multiple importers, even though the wood comes from other areas.

# 4. Date or time range of harvest

Information is required on the date or time range of harvest.

Please note that the European authorities can use satellite imagery to determine whether harvesting took place on the plot land during the specified period.

# 5. Evidence that the wood was legally harvested

The EUDR requires that the timber has been harvested in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. The following legislation is mentioned in the EUDR:

- Land use rights
- Environmental protection
- Forest-related rules, including forest management and biodiversity conservation, where directly related to wood harvesting
- Third parties' rights
- Labour rights
- Human rights protected under international law
- The principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Tax, anti-corruption, trade and customs regulations.

The evidence required in each case will depend on the applicable legislation in the country of harvest and the local legality risks. Depending on the situation, some aspects may not be relevant.

If indigenous peoples are present in or around the logging area, it will be necessary to demonstrate that their rights have not been violated.

If there are legal requirements for logging permits in the country of harvest, these permits must be provided. The same applies to official transport documentation. If no permit is required for logging on private land, other evidence of legality must be provided. In addition, internationally recognised certification schemes can help to demonstrate legality.

Proof of the supply chain (delivery notes or invoices) is also required to establish the link between the geo-coordinates provided, the proof of legality and the exported timber product. It is important to ensure that the documentation provided matches the timber exported and is plausible in terms of dates and quantities.

Additional risk mitigation measures are required for timber from countries with high levels of illegal logging or corruption.

Timber imported into the EU with a valid FLEGT licence is considered to have been legally harvested under the EUDR and hence only fulfils a part of the requirements. FLEGT-timber is no longer a "green lane" as it used to be in EUTR.

# 6. Evidence that the wood is deforestation-free

Importers must demonstrate that their imported products have not contributed to deforestation or forest degradation. The importer can use e.g. satellite images for this purpose. If there is other evidence that the product is deforestation-free, this should also be provided to the importer.

If you have any questions about what specific information and evidence is required for wood harvested in your country, please contact your relevant public authority, your association and/or your customers in the EU.















THE LEADING AUTHORITY ON TROPICAL TIMBER



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