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Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Forest Division
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Factsheet

EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR): Commodities produced in Switzerland

The EUDR contains provisions for making relevant commodities available on the market in the EU. Timber, cattle and soya produced in Switzerland are considered relevant commodities within the meaning of the EUDR. Swiss commodities are unlikely to violate rules on deforestation according to Switzerland's assessment.

The EU Commission and member states are responsible for the implementation and content of the EUDR in the EU. The companies affected are responsible for ensuring they comply with the requirements of the EUDR in the EU. The Federal Administration cannot provide any binding information on the implementation of the EUDR. This factsheet is intended as a basis for establishing whether Swiss commodities comply with specific EUDR requirements. It presents the situation from the perspective of the Federal Administration.

Background

The **EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR)**[1] came into force on 29 June 2023. It will **apply in the EU for large companies from 30 December 2026** and for small companies from 30 June 2027. **It concerns the commodities cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, cattle, soya and timber, as well as products made from these** such as chocolate, coffee capsules, furniture, paper and car tyres (see Art.1 and Annex 1 EUDR). The placing on the market of timber and timber products in Switzerland is governed by the Timber Trade Ordinance (TTO).[2] Although the EUDR has not been adopted by Switzerland, it has an **impact on Swiss companies**. Relevant **commodities and products from Switzerland must meet the requirements of the EUDR when made available on the market in the EU** (for more information, see Factsheet Key elements of the EUDR).

Deforestation-free compliance (EUDR Art. 2 paras 13 and 3(a))

Timber from Swiss forests and products produced on agricultural land in Switzerland (beef, soy) are, according to Switzerland's assessment, generally unproblematic in terms of deforestation and forest damage in Switzerland.

Comprehensive enforcement of forest legislation in Switzerland ensures sustainable forest management and forest conservation and prevents forest degradation. Sustainable forest use is regulated in the Swiss **Forest Act** (ForA)[3] and the associated **Forest Ordinance** (ForO).[4] The Forest Act (Art. 3) stipulates that Switzerland's forest area should not be reduced. Consequently, deforestation is largely prohibited (Art. 5). Deforestation in the public interest is permissible only in strictly defined exceptional cases and according to clearly defined protocols.

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1 Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 concerning the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation, OJ 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206.

2 Ordinance of 12 May 2021 on Placing Timber and Wood Products on the Market (Timber Trade Ordinance, TTO; SR 814.021).

3 Federal Act of 4 October 1991 on Forest (Forest Act, ForA; SR 921.0).

4 Ordinance of 30 November 1992 on Forest (Forest Ordinance, ForO; SR 921.01).

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Furthermore, Article 20 For A prohibits forest degradation by human activity in Switzerland and requires forests to be managed in such a way that they can fulfil their functions without interruption or restriction. Article 22 ForA also establishes a ban on clearcutting. The **cantonal forestry services** are responsible for **monitoring and ensuring** forest conservation and sustainable timber harvesting. Article 21 ForA stipulates that anyone wishing to fell trees requires a permit issued by the forestry service. A permit is only granted when proof of land ownership can be shown. The **Confederation supervises enforcement of the Act** (Art. 49 ForA); this task is the responsibility of the Federal Office for the Environment FOEN. Penalties are imposed in the case of violations of the Forest Act (Arts 42 and 43 ForA).

Compliance with the 'relevant legislation of the country of production' (EUDR Art. 2 paras 40 and 3(b))

The EUDR specifies which **relevant legal provisions of the country of production** must be complied with before commodities and products can be placed on the market. These include the **anti-corruption, human rights, land use rights, environmental protection and forest-related rules**. Since Switzerland is a country with the rule of law, legislation relating to the production of wood, cattle and soya is generally complied with.

According to the Corruption Perception Index of the NGO Transparency International, Switzerland has one of the lowest levels of **corruption** in the world. In 2025, it ranked sixth out of 180 countries considered, with a score of 80/100 (see Fight against corruption (admin.ch)).

Human rights protected under international law are respected in Switzerland. There are no known violations of human rights in the production of wood, cattle and soya in Switzerland. There is no definition or special rights for Swiss indigenous people in Swiss law; the term is not applicable to Switzerland.

Since 1 January 2022 it has been illegal in Switzerland to place **illegally harvested timber and products made from it on the market**. The **Timber Trade Ordinance** (TTO) requires all market players to observe due diligence and to minimise the risks of illegal timber appearing on the market. The FOEN monitors compliance with the TTO.

Further information

- European Commission official EUDR webpage:
- EUDR – Regulation text
- Guidance document for Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products
- EUDR – Frequently Asked Questions: FAQs
- EU information system on EUDR
- Geolocation of Swiss sites: All publicly accessible federal and cantonal administration systems are listed at www.cadastre.ch (de, fr, it)

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