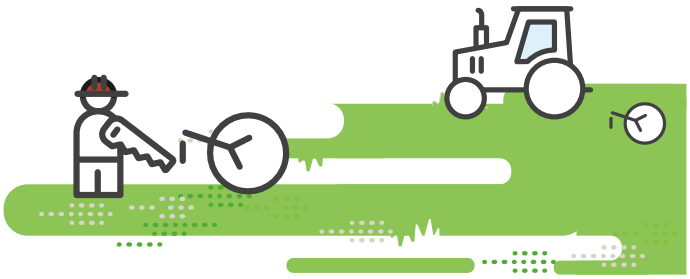
EFI | Deforestation-free value chains Technical facility

Unpacking the geolocation requirements under the EU Deforestation Regulation

EU Deforestation Regulation

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) requires that **palm oil, coffee, cocoa, soy, cattle, timber and rubber** (and some derived products) entering the EU must be produced **legally and without causing deforestation**. Operators placing these products on the EU market must submit a due diligence statement demonstrating that these criteria are met. The EUDR enters into application on 31 Dec 2025 (mid-2026 for EU micro, small and medium enterprises).



Traceability & geolocation

To demonstrate that a commodity sold in the EU is deforestation-free and legal, it must be traceable to the plot of land where it was produced. Therefore, operators must include the **geolocation coordinates** (with six decimal points) for every plot the commodity came from in their due diligence statements. Products from plots without geolocation information cannot be placed on the EU market.

Plot of land

A 'plot of land' is a single, contiguous piece of land where an agricultural commodity is grown. It can be any shape, as long as it has an unbroken border/boundary. Unconnected pieces of land are considered separate 'plots', even if they have the same owner. A farm can therefore be composed of different plots of land.

Point vs. polygon

Geolocation coordinates show the physical location of a plot of land. They are needed to check if deforestation happened on that plot after the EUDR cut-off date (31 December 2020) and if production was legal.

The EUDR has different geolocation requirements for plots of different sizes:

Less than 4 hectares	Single point	The GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude) of a single point in the plot is enough to identify its location on a map.
More than 4 hectares	Polygon	A polygon (comprising multiple GPS points) is required to delineate the boundaries of the plot.

From plot to export

Geolocation data must be preserved and transferred along the supply chain by suppliers, traders and manufacturers during every transaction – including across borders when raw materials are sourced from third countries.

Geolocation data collected for the plots of land where the commodities were produced or harvested

The buyer obtains geolocation data from the plots of all its suppliers and stores it in a database. Each subsequent buyer/trader/processor obtains the data from their suppliers, thus transferring it along the supply chain.

1.The geolocation data is sent to the operator importing into the EU, or

2. Geolocation continues to be transferred if the commodity is further processed into derivative products.

The operator submits the due diligence statement, containing all geolocation data, to the EUDR Information System and receives a due diligence reference number.

The due diligence reference number allows the shipment to be imported into the EU and placed on the market.

EU Competent Authorities are able to check shipments and operators to ensure all EUDR requirements are met.

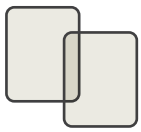
EU Information System requirements

To complete their due diligence statements needed to place a relevant product on the EU market, operators must provide the geolocation data of all plots in the official EU online system, either by manual entry or by uploading it in a GeoJSON file. The system will then give the operator a unique due diligence reference number for tracking and verifying compliance, which must be shared along the supply chain.

EU

Common errors & verification

Some common errors can occur when collecting geolocation coordinates. A verification process can help ensure that the geolocation information received is accurate and error free.

Common errors		
Overlap	Unexpected gap	Wrong coordinate system / format
		

Data protection and privacy

Only geolocation data is transferred along the supply chain into the EU system. Personal information (e.g. names, addresses, ID numbers) will not be transferred. The EU Competent Authorities will have access to the anonymous geolocation data. Operators and traders are not obliged to make it visible to downstream operators.

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