



Updates on Developments for Market Access (2023-2024)

ITTO Secretariat

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Updates of Four major legislative instruments:

- [EU Regulation on Deforestation](#)
- [Lacey Act Amendments](#)
- [Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act](#)
- [Japan Clean Wood Act](#)

Attention on developments:

- Korea
- China
- CITES



EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)



- **EUDR Timeline:**
 - Adoption on 31 May 2023.
 - Entry into force on 29 June 2023.
 - Scheduled application 30 Dec 2024 with SMEs in 2025.
 - A few weeks ago, 12-month extension finally announced.
- **EUDR and EUTR** will exist in parallel from 30 Dec 2024 to 30 Dec 2027.
- **Scope:** EUDR applies to a wide range of timber products, including sawn timber, wood-based materials, paper and furniture.
- **Who** needs to fulfil EUDR: any operator or trader who places relevant timber products on the EU market, or exports from it. Operators includes importers, exporters, forest owners, wood processors.
- **EUDR requirements:** Deforestation-free, Legally produced, Due diligence.
DDS includes:
 - Collect information product supply chain (including geolocation).
 - Assess the risk of deforestation, degradation and illegality.
 - Mitigate found risks to negligible levels.

EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)



- At the end of 2023, EC held 21st, 23rd and 24th meetings of the **Multi-Stakeholder Platform** on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests, launched EU Observatory on Deforestation and Forest Degradation to support EUDR implementation.
- On 30 Sep 2024, EC disclosed **EU Customs Tariff (TARIC) data** created for EUDR implementation for regulation at customs.
- On 2 Oct 2024, EC published a stronger **International Cooperation Framework**. Also proposed to give concerned parties additional time to prepare.
- On 2 Oct 2024, EC published methodology principles for **EUDR benchmarking exercise**, serving to classify countries as low, standard, or high risk.

EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)



- On November 2024, the European Parliament approved **postponing** the application date of EUDR by one year, with 371 votes to 240 (and 30 abstentions):
 - Large operators and traders: 30 December 2025
 - Micro- and small enterprises: 30 June 2026
- The Parliament also adopted the creation of a new category of countries posing “no risk” on deforestation in addition to the existing three categories of “low”, “standard” and “high” risk:
 - Countries classified as “**no risk**”, would face significantly less stringent requirements.
 - The Commission will have to finalise a country benchmarking system by 30 June 2025.

Lacey Act - Phase VII



- USDA-APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) Announces Phase VII of the Lacey Act Enforcement Schedule in March 2023.
- On 31 May 2024, the APHIS published a Federal Register Notice announcing enforcement of the Phase VII of the Lacey Act's import declaration begins on **1 December 2024**.
- Phase VII includes a broad range of items covering products of 26 Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) chapters, including plywood, laminated wood, tools, natural cork, bamboo and rattan, footwear, and more.
- Declarations will be required for all remaining plant product HTS codes that are not 100-percent composite materials.
- There are two types of penalties, civil and criminal, for Lacey Act violations. Penalties vary in severity based on the violator's level of knowledge about the illegal origin.

US Draft Legislation Introduced

FOREST Act



- The first **draft legislation** was introduced in Senate in October 2021: Fostering Overseas Rule of Law and Environmentally Sound Trade (**FOREST**) Act.
- On 1 Dec 2023, US Congress re-introduced the act as **FOREST Act of 2023**:
 - It prohibits the import of products made from commodities produced on **illegally deforested land**.
 - It requires importers of certain specified products identified as being at **high-risk** for contributing to illegal deforestation to certify they have mitigated the risks.
 - **Targeted products** include palm oil, soybeans, cocoa, cattle, and rubber.

Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act



- **Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012** came into force in 2013.
- Legislation (**Deferral of Sunsetting**—Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation) Certificate 2023 was released in March 2023.
- The Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation was **amended** to reflect updates to the Country Specific Guideline (CSG) and State Specific Guidelines (SSGs).
- The amendments come into effect on 13 August 2023.
- In 2023, the authority developed **new guidance material** to help importers and processors of regulated timber products to understand and meet their due diligence requirements under Australia's illegal logging laws.
- Australian Government trialled various timber **testing technologies** that can identify the species and/or origin of timber used in different products. The trial run until mid-2024.
- On 9 September 2024, the Illegal Logging Prohibition **Amendment Bill 2024** was passed by the Australian Parliament for strengthening measures to prevent illegal timber trade.



Japan Clean Wood Act

- **Japan Clean Wood Act (CWA)** came into force in May 2017, which is based on a voluntary-third party registering system.
- CWA promotes the use of legally-harvested wood products by creating provisions for entities may apply to a **registration body**.
- CWA was revised on 8 May 2023, and will come into force on 1 April 2025.
- In March 2024, JFA established an expert committee to promote the distribution and use of legally harvested timber.
- Guideline of the CWA Due Diligence System was released in September 2024 by Japan Forestry Agency.
- As of October 2024, **678 entities** has been registered.

Korean Revised Sustainable Use of Timber Act



- The **Korean Revised Sustainable Use of Timber Act** entered into force in Sept 2017
- The **official implementation** of the revised Act started from 1 October 2019.
- Under the Act, importers are required to file an import **declaration** stating the products are legally sourced.
- The government developed around **50** Country Specific Guidelines (**CSGs**) providing information of exporting countries.
- Sustainable Use of Timber Act was **partially revised** on 23 Jan 2024, and came into force on 24 July 2024.

Vietnam VNTLAS



- The Vietnam-EU **VPA agreement** came into force on 1 June 2019. Implementation will take several years.
- Vietnam Timber Legality Assurance System (**VNTLAS**) became effective from Oct 2020.
- Vietnam Due Diligence System (DDS) launched in July 2021.
- On 30 September 2024, Vietnam's Government issued Decree 120/2024 to revise and amend certain articles in Decree 102/2020 which regulates the VNTLAS.
- The revised VNTLAS establishes regulations for importing and exporting timber based on a risk-based approach and will take effect on 15 November 2024.

Chinese Forest Law Amendment



- China Congress adopted **3rd Amendment of Chinese Forest Law** on 28 December 2019.
- The amendment **came into force** on 1 July 2020.
- **Article 65** bans the buying, processing or transporting of illegally sourced timber.
- **NFGA** launched a revision of the "Regulations on the Implementation of the Forest Law", with a public consultations, which is now still in progress.

International Legal Instrument

CITES

- In Nov 2023, the 77th CITES Standing Committee was held in Geneva on compliance with wildlife (including high value timber) trade rules following CITES CoP19.
- 31 CITES Parties have partially implemented eCITES systems, and 12 Parties are in early planning stages.
- In July 2024, the CITES Plants Committee agreed to export quotas for a limited number of rosewood species for countries that demonstrated that the proposed trade will be sustainable.
- On 10-11 September 2024, the first-ever CITES training workshop for the African region was held in Lusaka, Zambia on demand reduction strategies to combat illegal trade in CITES-listed species.
- In Oct 2024, African CITES Parties urged to modernize permitting systems to support legal and traceable trade
- On 30 Oct 2024, CITES announced Uzbekistan will host CITES CoP20 in in 2025.



Thank You!

