



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER ORGANIZATION

Updates on Developments of Legality Frameworks (2024-2025)

As of 1 October 2025

ITTO Secretariat

ITTC-61

27 - 31 October 2025

Panama City, Panama



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

Attention on developments:

- Korea
- Ghana
- CITES



■ EUDR Timeline:

- 31 May 2023, adopted.
- 29 June 2023, entry into force.
- November 2024, postponed application by one year.
- September 2025, further postponement proposed by EC for another year.
- December 2026, new targeted implementation date.

■ EUDR and EUTR will exist in parallel from 30 Dec 2025 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: Operators includes importers, exporters, forest owners, wood processors.

■ **EUDR requirements:** Deforestation-free, Legally produced, Due diligence.



- In November 2024, the European Parliament (EP) adopted creation of country category with “no risk” on deforestation in addition to the existing three categories of “low”, “standard” and “high” risk.
- On 15 April 2025, EC published new guidance documents, simplifying the implementation of EUDR:
 - Due diligence can be carried out **annually** instead of for each shipment.
 - Company groups can appoint authorized **representatives** to act on their behalf.
 - Due diligence statements can be **reused** for goods that are re-imported.
 - Simplified requirements for companies further **downstream** in the supply chain.
- On 22 May 2025, EC released first list of country risk classifications :
 - 140 countries were categorized as low risk
 - Only 4 countries were classified as high risk: Belarus, Myanmar, North Korea and Russia.
 - Other countries were regarded as standard risk.
 - Dynamic benchmarking process, first review scheduled for 2026.

- On 9 July 2025, the European Parliament adopted a motion to reject Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1093, which defines the methodology for ranking countries according to their risk of deforestation under EUDR.
- On 23 September 2025, EC proposed again delaying enforcement of EUDR. The new implementation date would be late December 2026.



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.
- There are two types of penalties, civil and criminal, for Lacey Act violations.
- On **1 December 2024**, APHIS began implementing Phase VII of the Lacey Act provisions for certain imported plant and wood products.
- From **1 January 2026**, APHIS will no longer accept paper submissions of Lacey Act Declaration file.

- **Australia Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012** came into force in 2013.
- The Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation was **amended** in 2023 to reflect updates to the Country Specific Guideline (CSG) and State Specific Guidelines (SSGs).
- 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.
- On 3 March 2025, the Amendments to the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 (Act) and the Illegal Logging Prohibition Rules 2024 (Rules) came into effect.
- The Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012 has been replaced by the Rules.

- **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.
- **Guideline** of the CWA Due Diligence System was released in September 2024 by Japan Forestry Agency.
- In March 2025, detailed **instructions** for implementing CWA were released.
- On 1 April 2025, the **Amended CWA came into force** (requesting upstream wood-related business entities and wood-related importers to collect information on raw materials, confirm legality, communicate the result of legality confirmation, etc.)

- The **Korean Revised Sustainable Use of Timber Act** entered into force in Sept 2017.
- The **official implementation** of the **Revised Act** started from 1 Oct 2019.
- The Act was **further partially revised** on in Jan 2024 and came into force on 24 July 2024.
- The **Revised Enforcement Rules** came into effect in Sept 2024.
- Enforcement Decree of the Act was issued by President on 11 March 2025.

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- On 15 August 2025, Ghana agreed with EU at for system “**go-live**” on to demonstrate the issuance of FLEGT License.
 - Test shipment to selected EU destinations activated to identify potential bottlenecks for redress.
 - on 27 August 2025, Ghana and EU at the 13th joint session (JMRM/Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism) announced 8 October 2025 as the **official date** for EU to receive FLEGT License from Ghana.
 - Ghana’s FLEGT License **Format**-Attributes for global markets
 - Security features
 - Trade information
 - Discussion with EU to include QR code for key CoC and Geolocation.
 - Ghana became the **first African country** and **second in the world** to issue FLEGT license for timber exports

- On 30 Oct 2024, CITES announced Uzbekistan will host CITES CoP20 in 2025.
- On 20 Nov 2024, Turkmenistan Joins CITES, as the 185th party to the convention.
- On 24 Jan 2025, CITES launches Sponsored Delegates Project (SDP) for CoP20, which scheduled in November 2025, Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- On 3-8 Feb 2025, the 78th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee (SC78) was held in Geneva. The Committee agreed to finalize the draft report on Brazilwood (*Paubrasilia echinata*) bows for consideration by the CoP.
- On 27-31 May 2025, the first-ever CITES Global Youth Summit (CGYS) was held in Singapore.
- Today, over 800 tree species, mainly commercial timber species are listed in CITES Appendices I, II, and III.



Thank You!

