



**Deforestation regulation
information flow in
the food chain**

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The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) aims to minimise the Union's contribution to global deforestation and forest degradation. It sets strict requirements to prove the origin of a product or raw material. In addition, it requires a batch-specific due diligence (DD) statement in the EU Commission's TRACES system for placing a product or raw material on the market.

The solution proposal compiled in the development project of the Food Data Finland growth engine program offers ways for companies to meet the requirements of the Deforestation Regulation in the short term. It also takes into account the scaling of the data flow in view of other legislative requirements coming into force. In the future, it is important for Finland's competitiveness and the cost-efficiency of companies that not every information requirement imposed by rapidly changing legislation is resolved separately. Therefore, the proposal also offers a future-proof solution based on the implementation of a standard that covers the entire supply chain.

The product master data model

is a proposal for the format in which the master data required by the Deforestation Regulation could be shared in the chain. The data model is based on the utilisation of GS1 GDSN product data standard.

Solution proposals for sharing batch/lot information

The solution proposals focus on harmonising and automating the sharing of information, which reduces manual work, makes data transfer more efficient and improves data reliability.

The proposals contain four main points:

- Automated creation of appropriate due diligence statements (DD statements) in TRACES via APIs
- Efficient transmission of reference and verification numbers from TRACES via delivery messages
- If electronic messaging is not available, adding data to pallet labels or shipping documents by using 2D codes to make them machine-readable
- Implementation of the EPCIS standard to enable the collection, management and sharing of supply chain transaction data in a standardised and flexible manner between different parties - also in view of future legal information requirements.

Implementation of development divided into three phases

Implementing the information requirements of the Deforestation Regulation requires changes to the processes, data collection and communication between trading partners throughout the food chain. The strict timetable of the Regulation and the questions that remain open for the time being mean that it is practically impossible to respond to its requirements within the given timetable. For this reason, the solution is divided into three different phases on the implementation road map.

Phase I: Minimum implementation

Describes the measures to be taken immediately to prepare the various parties to respond to the requirements set by the Regulation as comprehensively as possible. Includes, among other things, the collection of information and the development of IT capabilities.

Phase II: Harmonized data transfer

Describes the measures required from the various parties for the industry to respond effectively to the requirements of the Regulation. Consistent communication of information in the food chain and the automation of operations are central.

Phase III: Scalable solution

Describes a solution that enable companies to meet other new legal requirements in the future. Central is the flow of information needed at any given time in the food chain in digital format and the extension of unified operating models to primary production as well.

The solution proposal does not provide more detailed instructions on the use of the EU Commission's TRACES system, the creation of a DD statement or the construction of API interfaces. The focus of the document is on the structure of the data transmitted in the chain and the solutions for sharing it.

Project presentation

The Food Data Finland growth engine program brings together parties from primary production, industry and trade to develop a food chain that utilises data and global GS1 standards. The program brings concrete results to data co-operation in the Finnish food chain in the form of jointly implemented development projects.

In March 2024, GS1 Finland launched the development project included in the program called "Deforestation regulation information flow in the food chain". The purpose of the project was to help Finnish food chain operators meet the information and data requirements of the EU Deforestation Regulation. The project identified the data required by the Deforestation Regulation, which operators must be able to collect, produce and share from primary production to trade. In addition, the necessary changes to the companies' processes, operating models and systems were mapped out and their cost and workload impacts were assessed.

The results of the project, which was completed in August 2024, included this document, the master data model required by the Deforestation Regulation and a data flow description. The aim was to draw up a solution proposal that supports the responsible operations and competitiveness of Finnish food chain operators.

We would like to thank the following companies for their help during the project



We would like to thank the following associations for their expertise during the project

