



Standard

FSC REGULATORY MODULE

FSC-STD-01-004 V1-0



D1-0

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INTRODUCTION

FSC is developing solutions to facilitate FSC certificate holders' efforts in demonstrating compliance with European Union Regulations as well as global sustainability best practices. One such regulation includes the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 (known as the Regulation (European Union) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products, EUDR). The EUDR is a pivotal EU initiative to halt deforestation and degradation caused by forestry and agricultural activities all over the world to promote responsible sourcing. The EUDR places stringent requirements on operators placing timber and timber products in the EU market, mandating due diligence and traceability throughout the supply chain.

Recognizing the significance of aligning forest management practices with this regulatory landscape, FSC has developed the FSC Regulatory Module - a comprehensive and adaptive extension to existing certification standards. By incorporating EUDR specific criteria, definitions, documentation, and verification processes, this module ensures that FSC certificate holders not only meet ecological and social sustainability benchmarks but also adhere to the legal requirements outlined by the EUDR.

The FSC Regulatory Module is not a standalone but a voluntary standard to be used in addition to current FSC certification requirements for forest management, chain of custody and controlled wood. The requirements in the following module are categorized by type of certification and user group for ease of use and implementation.

The FSC Regulatory Module sets the framework and requirements to:

- introduce a due diligence system to support EUDR compliance, including information collection, risk assessment and risk mitigation,
- gather and transmit precise information on the origin of products, including geolocation and time of production, and
- ensure that only deforestation-free material enters the FSC chain of custody.

Certificate holders who decide to get certified against this additional module will have a tool and additional independent assurance to support their efforts in demonstrating compliance with EUDR requirements as they can show competent authorities and other companies that relevant information has been gathered and due diligence exercised. Companies who make use of the FSC Regulatory Module will be entitled to use a Regulatory claim on the sales documents for their certified products. While FSC-accredited certification bodies will evaluate conformance with this module, the ultimate decision as to whether a company is compliant with EUDR remains with the relevant competent authorities.

As we embark on this journey toward harmonizing FSC certification with the demands of the EUDR, this add-on module serves as a bridge, further connecting FSC's rigorous responsible forestry practices with regulatory expectations. By adopting this module, FSC certificate holders not only strengthen their commitment to environmental and social responsibility but also contribute to the overarching goal of eradicating illegal timber trade into within and from the European Union.

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A. SCOPE

This standard is for voluntary use by organizations applying for or holding FSC certification to extend their certification scope in order to align with the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 (also referred to in this standard as 'the Regulation', 'this Regulation' or "EUDR").

Organizations choosing to apply this standard shall demonstrate conformance with all applicable requirements of this standard according to their scope of FSC certification, and according to their type of organization as per Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

This standard is mandatory to be applied by accredited certification bodies in evaluating organizations who decided to apply this standard.

Alignment requirements for organizations applying for or holding FSC forest management certification are presented in Part 1.

Alignment requirements for organizations applying for or holding FSC chain of custody certification are presented in Part 2.

Requirements for organizations using the FSC trademarks to promote FSC-certified products in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module are presented in Part 3.

Requirements for FSC accredited certification bodies (CBs) for evaluating conformance of organizations who have chosen to apply this standard are presented in Part 4.

All aspects of this standard are considered normative, including the scope, effective and validity dates, references, terms and definitions, footnotes, graphics, tables, annexes, and applicability notes unless otherwise stated. Notes, information boxes and examples are not considered normative.

This standard focuses on wood and rubber. If other commodities falling under the scope of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, such as cocoa or coffee, are included in the scope of FSC certification, The Organization is also required to demonstrate conformance for these commodities.

B. REFERENCES

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document.

For references without a version number, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies:

Forest Management

N/A Applicable Forest Stewardship Standard

FSC-STD-30-005 V2-0 Forest Management Groups Standard

FSC-STD-30-010 V3-0 Controlled Forest Management Standard

FSC-PRO-60-006b V2-0 Risk Assessment Framework

Chain of Custody

FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 Chain of Custody Certification

FSC-STD-40-004a V2-1 FSC Product Classification (Addendum to FSC-STD-40-004)

FSC-STD-40-005 V3-1 Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood

FSC-STD-40-006 V2-1 FSC Standard for Project Certification

Trademark use

FSC-STD-50-001 V2-1 Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by certificate holders

Accreditation

FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 General Requirements for FSC Accredited Certification Bodies

FSC-STD-20-007 V4-0 Forest Management Evaluations

FSC-STD-20-011 V4-2 Chain Of Custody Evaluations

C. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions included in <[FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms](#)>, and the following terms as presented in the table as FSC definitions apply:

NOTE: FSC definitions refer to existing definitions, new definitions, interpretations and references to proposed Advice Notes.

Table 1 Comparison of key terms and definitions used in Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 and their counterpart in the FSC system

EUDR Definitions	FSC Definitions
<p>Agricultural use</p> <p>'agricultural use' means the use of land for the purpose of agriculture, including for agricultural plantations and set-aside agricultural areas, and for rearing livestock.</p>	<p>Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system, but implicit in the FSC definition of 'non-forest land-use' in <FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators Standard>.</p>
<p>Deforestation</p> <p>'deforestation' means the conversion of forest to agricultural use, whether human-induced or not.</p>	<p>Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system. FSC Interpretations #01 and #02 provide the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.</p> <p>Interpretation #01 (New)</p> <p>In Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, 'deforestation-free' is defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that the relevant products contain, have been fed with or have been made using, relevant commodities that were produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation after 31 December 2020; and b) in the case of relevant products that contain or have been made using wood, that the wood has been harvested from the forest without inducing forest degradation after 31 December 2020. <p>Do forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit meet the criteria to be considered 'deforestation-free' as defined by the Regulation?</p> <p>Yes, with the enforcement of ADVICE-20-007-XX Deforestation-free products from FSC certified management units, forest products originating from an FSC-certified management unit and sold with the FSC claim can be considered 'deforestation-free' as defined by the Regulation.</p> <p>Interpretation #02 (New)</p>

FSC definition of conversion covers lasting changes of natural forest cover or High Conservation Value areas, induced by human activity. Does FSC address non-human induced deforestation?

Yes. Criterion 10.9 in <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> requires The Organization to assess risks and implement activities to reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards.

Examples of natural hazards that may induce deforestation include drought, fires, landslides, storms, diseases, etc. The Organization prevents and mitigates risks by, among others, having management plans in place, integrated pest management, monitoring systems, managing forests for resilience, etc., which makes FSC an effective measure to reduce the likelihood and impact of non-human induced deforestation. In addition, Criterion 10.1 of <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> requires The Organization to regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions after harvest or in accordance with the management plan.

Deforestation-free

‘deforestation-free’ means:

- a) that the relevant products contain, have been fed with or have been made using, relevant commodities that were produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation after 31 December, 2020; and
- b) in the case of relevant products that contain or have been made using wood, that the wood has been harvested from the forest without inducing forest degradation after 31 December, 2020.

See definition on deforestation.

Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system. FSC definitions of conversion and degradation together with Interpretations **#01, #02, #04** and **#05** and Advice Notes **ADVICE-20-007-XX Deforestation-free products from FSC certified management units** and **ADVICE-20-007-02 Certification of primary forests** provide the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Due diligence statement

No definition is provided by EUDR for this term.

In the context of this standard, ‘due diligence statement’ is defined as:

Due diligence statement: A document confirming the implementation of a due diligence system by the operator, which encompasses information collection, risk assessment and risk mitigation measures in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of The Council of 31 May 2023. The statement affirms that the operator has conducted due diligence to ascertain that either

no risk or only a negligible risk has been identified concerning the compliance of the relevant products in adherence to Article 3, point (a) or (b), and Article 4(2) and 8; of the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of The Council of 31 May 2023.

Forest

Land spanning more than 0,5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10 %, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: <[FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship Standard](#)>).

FSC Interpretation **#03** provides the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Interpretation #03 (New)

FSC defines 'forest' as a tract of land dominated by trees. Is this aligned with the definition of forest by EUDR?

Yes, FSC does not specify minimum thresholds in terms of area or tree height in its forest definition. Regarding canopy cover, the FSC definitions of 'natural forest' and 'plantation' specify that it includes a range of forest types, from woodlands and savannas to boreal, temperate and tropical primary forests, some of them with canopies characterized by canopy covers starting at 10 %.

Forest degradation

'forest degradation' means structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:

- a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or
- b) primary forests into planted forests.

Degradation: Changes within a natural forest or High Conservation Value area that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure and/or function, and reduces the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity and/or deliver ecosystem services.

(Source: <[FSC-POL-01-007 Policy to Address Conversion](#)>)

Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system. FSC Interpretations **#04** and **#05** provide the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Interpretation #04 (New)

EUDR defines 'forest degradation' as: structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:

- a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or
- b) primary forests into planted forests;

This definition is different from the FSC definition on degradation. Do forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit meet the requirements of being produced without inducing forest degradation as per the EUDR definition?

Yes. Despite the fact that FSC and the EUDR have adopted different definitions for the term degradation, FSC ensures that

forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit do not induce forest degradation after 31 December 2020 as required by the EUDR.

Background:

Based on the EUDR definition of degradation, the following five conversion scenarios are prohibited:

- 1) Conversion of primary forests into plantation forests,
- 2) Conversion of primary forests into other wooded land,
- 3) Conversion of naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests,
- 4) Conversion of naturally regenerating forests into other wooded land,
- 5) Conversion of primary forests into planted forests.

NOTE: In the context of this interpretation, the term conversion in the above scenarios is per the EUDR definition.

For scenarios 1), 2) and 5):

ADVICE-20-007-02 Certification of primary forests under <FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations> states that primary forest may be certified within the FSC system when its management is in conformity with the requirements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard including but not limited to the High Conservation Values (HCV) requirements of Principle 9, which requires the maintenance and/or enhancement of the HCV in the management unit. Based on the advice note, primary forest qualifies as a forest containing HCVs and is covered by the definition of conversion. The conversion of primary forest to planted forest is seen as HCV destruction and therefore prohibited in the FSC system.

Meanwhile, according to the EUDR, primary forest means naturally regenerated forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed. This definition is covered by the FSC definition on natural forests, thus Principle 6 of <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> applies to primary forests, prohibiting the conversion of primary forests to plantation forests, planted forests and to other wooded land.

For scenarios 3) and 4):

In the FSC system, the EUDR term “naturally regenerating forests” is covered by the FSC term and definition on “natural forests”, while the EUDR term “other wooded land” is equivalent to the FSC term and definition on “non-forest land use”.

Principle 6 of <[FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)> prohibits the conversion of natural forests to plantations or to non-forest land-use.

Therefore, the five scenarios are regulated in the FSC system.

See also [Interpretation #05](#).

Fully verified supply chain

No definition is provided by EUDR for this term.

Fully verified supply chain

supply chain where every certificate holder has applied the <[FSC-STD-01-004 FSC Regulatory Module](#)> and establishes a product group for the purpose of controlling the Regulatory+ output claim. This claim can be passed on along the supply chain by certificate holders according to the requirements of this standard.

Geolocation

'geolocation' means the geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits; for plots of land of more than four hectares used for the production of the relevant commodities other than cattle, this shall be provided using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land.

In the context of this standard, 'geolocation' as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 2 (28) is equivalent to:

Geolocation: The geographical location of a plot of land described by means of latitude and longitude coordinates corresponding to at least one latitude and one longitude point and using at least six decimal digits.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises/SMEs

'micro, small and medium-sized enterprises' or 'SMEs' means micro, small and medium-sized undertakings as defined in Article 3 of Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council

In the context of this standard, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is understood as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 2 (30).

SME categories according to [Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council](#):

"1. In applying one or more of the options in Article 36, Member States shall define micro-undertakings as undertakings which on their balance sheet dates do not exceed the limits of at least two of the three following criteria:

-
- a) balance sheet total: EUR 350 000
 - b) net turnover: EUR 700 000
 - c) average number of employees during the financial year: 10.

2. Small undertakings shall be undertakings which on their balance sheet dates do not exceed the limits of at least two of the three following criteria:

- a) balance sheet total: EUR 4 000 000;
- b) net turnover: EUR 8 000 000;
- c) average number of employees during the financial year: 50.

Member States may define thresholds exceeding the thresholds in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph. However, the thresholds shall not exceed EUR 6 000 000 for the balance sheet total and EUR 12 000 000 for the net turnover.

3. Medium-sized undertakings shall be undertakings which are not micro-undertakings or small undertakings and which on their balance sheet dates do not exceed the limits of at least two of the three following criteria:

- a) balance sheet total: EUR 20 000 000
- b) net turnover: EUR 40 000 000
- c) average number of employees during the financial year: 250.

Naturally regenerating forest

'naturally regenerating forest' means forest predominantly composed of trees established through natural regeneration; it includes any of the following:

- a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated;
- b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity;

Natural forest: A forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species, not classified as plantations.

(Source: <[FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)>)

Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system. FSC Interpretations **#04** and **#05** provide the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Interpretation #05 (New)

Does FSC allow conversion of naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land?

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- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>c) coppice from trees established through natural regeneration;</p> <p>d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species.</p> | <p>originally natural</p> <p>trees of</p> | <p>No, the characteristics of a 'naturally regenerating forest' according to EUDR are:</p> <p>a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated;</p> <p>b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity;</p> <p>c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration;</p> <p>d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species.</p> |
|---|---|--|

Characteristics a) to c) fall within the scope of the FSC definition of "natural forests" and their conversion is prohibited by Criterion 6.9 of <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship>.

Regarding d), removal of 'naturally regenerated trees of introduced species' may be necessary when implementing responsible forest management as a strategy to remove invasive species that can lead to ecological and economic damages. FSC's interpretation is that the EUDR does not intend to prohibit this scenario.

See also **Interpretation #04**

Negligible risk

'negligible risk' means the level of risk that applies to relevant commodities and relevant products, where, on the basis of a full assessment of product-specific and general information, and, where necessary, of the application of the appropriate mitigation measures, those commodities or products show no cause for concern as being not in compliance with Article 3, point (a) or (b).

Low risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there is negligible risk that material from a specific geographic area originates from unacceptable sources. (Source: <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing Controlled Wood>)

NOTE: FSC is replacing the term 'low risk' (as above) with 'negligible risk' (as below) in its normative framework.

Negligible risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that either there is no cause for concern that material from a specific geographic area originates from unacceptable sources, or that material is mixed with non-eligible inputs or material with a different origin in such a way that would not allow the level of risk related to origin to be confirmed as negligible.

Non-compliant product

'non-compliant products' means relevant products that do not comply with Article 3.

In the context of this standard, for products or material which have been identified by a competent authority as 'non-compliant' with the EUDR, FSC requirements for non-conforming products apply.

Non-conforming product: Product or material for which an organization is unable to demonstrate that it conforms to the applicable FSC certification requirements and eligibility requirements for making FSC claims.

(Source: <FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification>)

Non-negligible risk

No definition is provided by EUDR for this term.

Specified risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment conducted according to <[FSC-PRO-60-002a FSC National Risk Assessment Framework](#)>, that there is risk which cannot be determined as low that forest products from unacceptable sources may be sourced or enter the supply chain from a specific geographic area. The nature and extent of this risk is specified for the purpose of defining efficient control measures (Source: <[FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing Controlled Wood](#)>)

NOTE: FSC is replacing the term 'specified risk' (as above) with 'non-negligible risk' (as below) in its normative framework.

Non-negligible risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there is cause for concern that material from unacceptable sources may have been sourced or entered the supply chain from a specific geographic area. The nature and extent of this risk is specified for the purpose of defining efficient mitigation measures.

Operator

'operator' means any natural or legal person who, in the course of a commercial activity, places relevant products on the market or exports them.

In the context of this standard, 'operator' as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 2 (15) is equivalent to:

Operator: (The) Organization who, in the course of a commercial activity, places relevant products on the EU market or exports them.

Other wooded land

'other wooded land' means land not classified as 'forest' spanning more than 0,5 hectares, with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of 5 to 10 %, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, or with a combined cover of shrubs, bushes and trees above 10 %, excluding land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system, but implicit in the FSC definition of 'non-forest land-use' in <[FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators](#)>. FSC Interpretation **#07** provides the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Interpretation #07 (New)

FSC does not define 'other wooded land'. Is there a term comparable to this definition in the FSC system?

Yes, land not classified as 'forest', is defined as areas of 'non-forest land-use' in the FSC system.

Plantation forest

'plantation forest' means a planted forest that is intensively managed and meets, at planting and stand maturity, all the following criteria: one or two species, even age class, and regular spacing; it includes short rotation plantations for wood, fibre

Plantation: A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests.

and energy, and excludes forests planted for protection or ecosystem restoration, as well as forests established through planting or seeding, which at stand maturity resemble or will resemble naturally regenerating forests.

(Source: <[FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)>)

Planted forest

'planted forest' means forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50 % of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.

Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system, but implicit in the FSC definition of plantation and natural forest, depending on the intensity of management as well as the different purposes for growth.

FSC Interpretations **#03** and **#06** provide the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Interpretation #06 (New)

In EUDR, 'planted forest' means forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.

Does FSC use the term 'planted forest' and how is 'planted forest' defined in FSC system?

FSC does not use the term 'planted forest'. Depending on the intensity of management as well as the different purposes for growth, EUDR definition for 'planted forest' (adopted from [FAO \(2023\)](#)) overlaps with FSC definitions of plantation and natural forest.

According to FAO's explanation of the definition, 'planted forests' can resemble natural ecological processes to a greater or lesser extent. There is a trend towards referring to 'planted forest' of exotic species as 'plantation forests' (with single or few species, even age class, uniform planting density), which would be equivalent with the FSC definition of 'plantation'.

Meanwhile, 'planted forests' of native species are forms of 'semi-natural forests' or 'modified natural forests' (depending on degree of naturalness, including mixed species and age classes and variable planting density), which would be equivalent with the FSC definition of 'natural forest'.

Therefore, 'planted forest' can be considered belonging to the 'natural forest' definition, as long as the forest does not meet the FSC definition of 'plantation'.

In the context of EUDR, the term 'planted forest' is of relevance under the scenario of 'forest degradation' that addresses conversion of primary forests into planted forests.

As explained under the definition of 'forest degradation', primary forests qualify as HCVs and are covered by the definition of conversion. The conversion of primary forest to planted forest is then seen as HCVs destruction therefore prohibited under the FSC system. Considering this, FSC does not see the need to adopt/adapt the term and definition on 'planted forest'.

See also Interpretation **#03**.

Plot of land

'plot of land' means land within a single real-estate property, as recognised by the law of the country of production, which enjoys sufficiently homogeneous conditions to allow an evaluation of the aggregate level of risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with relevant commodities produced on that land.

In the context of this standard, 'plot of land' is understood as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 2 (27).

NOTE: a plot of land may be considered equivalent to the management unit (MU) only when the MU consists solely of a single real estate property and enjoys sufficiently homogeneous conditions to allow an evaluation of the aggregate level of risk of deforestation and forest degradation.

FSC will use a standard spatial reference system (expected to be WGS84 and the UTM coordinate projection system) to map plots of land and to determine the plot area when reporting due diligence data.

Note for the consultation: FSC will advocate for a larger MUs to be considered a plot of land in the engagement offered by the EU Commission. However, the current interpretation of the EUDR implies the above adoption of the definition.

Primary forest

'primary forest' means naturally regenerated forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

Primary forest: naturally regenerated forest of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed

(Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Terms and Definitions provided under Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020).

Note: Primary forests are home to Indigenous Peoples and local communities and are the basis of their identity, culture, belief system, traditional knowledge, and livelihoods. A forest meeting the primary forest definition above would not be excluded due to the presence of these communities.

(Source: ADVICE-20-007-02 Primary forests in <FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations>)

Relevant legislation of the country of production

'relevant legislation of the country of production' means the laws applicable in the country of production concerning the legal status of the area of production in terms of:

- a) land use rights;
- b) environmental protection;
- c) forest-related rules, including forest management and biodiversity conservation, where directly related to wood harvesting;
- d) third parties' rights;
- e) labour rights;
- f) human rights protected under international law;
- g) the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- h) tax, anti-corruption, trade and customs regulations.

Term not explicitly defined in the FSC system. FSC Interpretation **#08** provides the clarification and normative connection to the EUDR definition for full alignment.

Interpretation #08 (New)

Is compliance with the relevant legislation of the country of production as per EUDR covered by FSC requirements?

Yes, for forest management certification, Principle 1 of the <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> requires The Organization to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements. The requirement for Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous Peoples is covered by Principle 3.

Further details on the minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements that Standard Developers have to include in the Forest Stewardship Standard is reflected in Annex A of <FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators>.

For Chain of Custody, as per Clause 6.1 of the <FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification> "the organization shall ensure that its FSC-certified and controlled wood products or timber products conform to all applicable timber legality legislation." It also further elaborates that trade and customs laws include: "bans, quotas and other restrictions on the export of timber products (e.g., bans on the export of unprocessed logs or rough-sawn lumber), requirements for export licences for timber and timber products, official authorisation that entities exporting timber and timber products may require and taxes and duties applying to timber product exports."

For sourcing material without an FSC claim to be used as controlled material, the risk assessment indicators as per FSC-PRO-60-006b, as well as Annex A, Clause 3.6 of the <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for sourcing FSC Controlled Wood> requires the organizations to use the minimum list of applicable laws, regulations, nationally ratified international treaties, conventions, and agreements.

NOTE: the procedure <FSC-PRO-60-006b V2-0> which replaces <FSC-PRO-60-002a FSC National Risk Assessment Framework> is under development. It will be available for use simultaneously with the Regulatory Module.

Relevant products

'relevant products' means products listed in Annex I that contain, have been fed with or have been made using relevant commodities;

'relevant commodities' means cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood.

Both terms are not explicitly defined in the FSC system, but implicit in the FSC definitions of 'product group' and 'product type', in <[FSC -STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification](#)>.

<[FSC-STD-40-004a FSC Product Classification](#)> has a different scope than the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115. For products in the scope of <[FSC-STD-01-004 FSC Regulatory Module](#)>, please refer to the Annex I of the Regulation.

Risk mitigation measure

No definition is provided by EUDR for this term.

Article 11 (1) provides the following reference to risk mitigation:

Except where a risk assessment carried out in accordance with Article 10 reveals that there is no or only a negligible risk that the relevant products are non-compliant, the operator shall, prior to placing the relevant products on the market or exporting them, adopt risk mitigation procedures and measures that are adequate to achieve no or only a negligible risk.

In the context of this standard, the term 'risk mitigation measure' as mentioned in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 11 (1) is equivalent to

Mitigation measure: An action that the organization shall take to mitigate the risk of sourcing material from unacceptable sources.

Substantiated concern

'substantiated concern' means a duly reasoned claim based on objective and verifiable information regarding non-compliance with this Regulation and which could require the intervention of competent authorities.

In the context of this standard, substantiated concern is understood as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 2 (31).

Supply area:

No definition is provided by EUDR for this term.

Supply area:

The geographical area from which material is sourced. The supply area does not need to be defined as a single contiguous area; it may comprise multiple separate areas that span multiple political jurisdictions including countries or multiple forest types.

Trader

'trader' means any person in the supply chain other than the operator who, in the

In the context of this standard, 'trader' is understood as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, Article 2 (17). However, in order to avoid confusion with the term 'trader' as defined in <[FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification](#)>,

course of a commercial activity, makes relevant products available on the market. FSC uses the term 'regulatory trader' in this standard when referring to a trader in the meaning of the EUDR.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions:

[Adapted from *ISO/IEC Directives Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*]

- “shall”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard.
- “should”: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. A ‘should requirement’ can be met in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
- “may”: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.
- “can”: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

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D. ABBREVIATIONS

ASI	Assurance Services International
CB	FSC accredited certification body
DDS	Due Diligence System
EU	European Union
EUDR	Regulation (European Union) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSS	Forest Stewardship Standard
FM	Forest Management
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
HCV	High Conservation Value
MU	Management unit
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
PSU	Performance and Standards Unit
QMS	Quality Management System
RA	Risk Assessment
SLIMF	Small or Low Intensity Managed Forests
SME	Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

PART 1 – ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Informative guidance

This section includes additional requirements to forest management certification for conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module. It covers due diligence, involving activities such as information collection, risk assessment, risk mitigation measures and creating due diligence statements, scenarios for simplified due diligence and how to deal with non-compliances.

For controlled forest management certification additional general requirements are included. For group certification, additional requirements include requirements for group entities, group rules, division of responsibilities, internal monitoring system and chain of custody.

How to find applicable requirements:

Not all sections and clauses apply to all organizations. To help understand which clauses are applicable, refer to the chart on the right to identify the applicable icon based on organization type. In the context of this standard, organization types are based on operator, trader and SME classifications. Definitions of organization types are provided in the [Terms and Definitions section](#) at the beginning of the document.

NOTE: A single organization can either be classified as SME or Non-SME. However, an organization may act as an operator or a trader at the same time, depending on the position in the supply chain. The type of organization might further differ between different product groups.



Figure 1 Icon key based on organization type

How to read the clauses







1.2.2 For a plot of land of more than four hectares, the geolocation is compiled using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 2.28]

















Reference to FSC Standard

Reference to EU Deforestation Regulation – [EUDR (Article).(Paragraph)]

1. Applicable Forest Stewardship Standard

Applicability note: For The Organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, the conformance with applicable Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS) and this section is mandatory.

1.1 DUE DILIGENCE	
<p>1.1.1 Due diligence is exercised on the products that originate from the management unit and are in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module prior to selling the product as conformant with the FSC Regulatory Module, in order to demonstrate that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) is deforestation-free;b) has been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 8.1]	 
<p>1.1.2 Unless The Organization is operating in a country or parts thereof classified as low risk in accordance with the EUDR three-tier risk system (<Link to be added when available>), the due diligence includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the collection of information, data and documents as required by Section 1.2.;b) risk assessment as required by Section 1.3.; andc) risk mitigation measures as required by Section 1.4. [Criterion 8.5, FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 8.2] <p>NOTE: When the management unit (MU) is located in a country or parts thereof classified as low risk in accordance with the EUDR three-tier risk system, a simplified due diligence may be conducted (See Section 1.6).</p>	 
1.2 INFORMATION COLLECTION	
<p>1.2.1 The following information, accompanied by evidence, for each product in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module is collected, organized and kept for five years from the date of sale of the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) a description, including the trade name and type of the product, and in the case of wood the common and full scientific name of each species;b) the quantity of the product expressed in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. kilograms of net mass and, where applicable, in the supplementary unit set out in Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 (20) against the indicated Harmonized System code, or,ii. net mass or,iii. where applicable, volume or number of items; <p>NOTE: A supplementary unit is applicable where it is defined consistently for all possible subheadings under the Harmonized System code referred to in the due diligence statement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">c) the country of production;d) the geolocation of all plots of land where the product was produced;e) the date or time range of harvesting (period defined by a start date and end date);f) the name, postal address and email address of any business, operator or trader to whom the products has been supplied;g) The FSC public summary report demonstrating conformity with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and the FSC Regulatory Module, which serves as adequately conclusive and verifiable information that:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. the product is deforestation-free;	 

<p>ii. the product has been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production, including any arrangement conferring the right to use the respective area for the purposes of the production of the relevant commodity. [Indicator 8.5.2 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 9.1]</p>	
<p>1.2.2 For a plot of land of more than four hectares, the geolocation is compiled using polygons with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 2.28]</p>	 
<p>1.2.3 For a plot of land of four hectares or less, the geolocation is compiled using a polygon or a single point of latitude and longitude of six decimal digits. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 2.28].</p>	 
<p>1.3 RISK ASSESSMENT</p>	
<p>1.3.1 The information collected as per Clause 1.2.1 of this standard and any other relevant documentation is verified and analyzed, and based on this information and documentation, a risk assessment is conducted to determine whether there is a risk that the product intended to be sold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is not deforestation-free; b) has not been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 10.1] 	 
<p>1.3.1.1 The risk assessment may be conducted using the simplified risk assessment template provided by FSC <Link to be added when available (under development in coordination with revision of FSC-PR0-60-006b)>. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 10.1]</p>	 
<p>1.3.1.2 When an FSC Risk Assessment exists, it is used to identify the level of risk related to the applicable indicators. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 10.1]</p> <p>NOTE: Conformity with Criterion 8.5 implies that the risk of mixing certified materials with products of unknown origin or produced in areas where deforestation or forest degradation has occurred or is occurring can be deemed negligible.</p>	 
<p>1.3.2 When a risk assessment reveals a non-negligible risk, a product is only sold as FSC certified after effective risk mitigation measures as per Section 1.4 of this standard have been implemented to demonstrate that the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is deforestation-free; b) has been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004] 	 
<p>1.3.3 The risk assessment is reviewed at least annually to verify the continued correctness and relevance of risk designations and revised if necessary. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 10.4]</p>	 
<p>1.3.4 The information collected against the risk assessment criteria along with how the risk category is determined is made available to competent authorities upon request. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 10.4]</p>	 

1.4 RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

1.4.1 When a risk assessment conducted in accordance with Section 1.3 of this standard reveals a non-negligible risk that the product:

- a) is not deforestation-free, and
- b) has not been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production,

effective risk mitigation measures to achieve no or only a negligible risk are implemented before selling the product. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 11.1]

NOTE 1: FSC Forest Management Certification is considered an effective risk mitigation measure to achieve no or only a negligible risk and serves as credible justification to demonstrate conformity with Clause 1.4.1.

NOTE 2: Risk mitigation procedures and measures may include prohibition of placing the product with the relevant claim on the market or exporting them.

1.4.2 Adequate and proportionate policies, controls and procedures to mitigate and manage effectively the risks of non-conformity of the product are in place. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 11.2]

1.4.3 Policies, controls and procedures as per Clause 1.4.2 include:

- a) model risk management practices, reporting, record-keeping, internal control and compliance management, including the appointment of a compliance officer at management unit level except when The Organization qualifies as an SME;
- b) an independent audit function to verify the internal policies, controls and procedures referred to in point (1), except when The Organization qualifies as an SME. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 11.2]

NOTE 1: The Organization can demonstrate conformity with Clauses 1.4.2 and 1.4.3 of this standard through FSC forest management certification, which also provides an evaluation function by independent certification bodies. Principle 7 and Principle 8 of <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> require the development, implementation and monitoring of a management plan, which is defined in FSC as the collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the management unit, including statements of objectives and policies. FSC requires the management plan to be proportionate to scale, intensity and risks of the management activities. Therefore, risk management practices, reporting, record-keeping, internal control and compliance management are covered under FSC forest management certification.

1.4.4 Decisions on risk mitigation procedures and measures are documented and reviewed at least annually, revised if necessary, and made available to the competent authorities upon request. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 11.3]

1.4.5 Decisions taken by The Organization on risk mitigation procedures and measures can be demonstrated. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 11.3]

NOTE: Principle 7 and Principle 8 of <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> contains requirements on the development, implementation and monitoring of management plan which contains the risk mitigation procedures and measures. FSC requires The Organization to make publicly available a summary of the management plan free of charge. The

Organization can use the public summary of the evaluation report and the public summary of the management plan to demonstrate conformity with Clause 1.4.5.

1.5 DUE DILIGENCE STATEMENT

1.5.1 A due diligence statement in accordance with Annex 2. Due Diligence Statement is submitted by The Organization acting as operator to the competent authorities confirming that due diligence is exercised in accordance with Clause 1.1.1 of this standard and concludes that the product is deforestation-free and has been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production prior to:

- a) placing the product on the market or exporting it;
- b) selling the product with the claim of conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/EUDR 4.2]

NOTE: The Due Diligence Statement may be generated using an online tool provided by FSC.

1.5.2 When an authorized representative is mandated by The Organization to submit the due diligence statement, the following information is made available to the competent authorities upon request

- a) a copy of the mandate in an official language of the European Union;
- b) a copy in an official language of the member state in which the due diligence statement is handled or, where that is not possible, in English. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/EUDR 6]

NOTE: If The Organization is a natural person or microenterprise, The Organization may mandate the next organization further down the supply chain that is not a natural person or a microenterprise to act as an authorized representative.











1.5.3 Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, including at minimum the information required by Criterion 8.5 and the following:

- a) a description, including the trade name and type of product, and in the case of wood the common name of the species, and their full scientific name;
- b) the quantity of the product expressed in
 - i. kilograms of net mass and, where applicable, in the supplementary unit set out in Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 (20) against the indicated Harmonized System code; or
 - ii. net mass; or
 - iii. where applicable, volume or number of items.
- c) the FSC Regulatory claim (if applicable);
- d) the reference number/s of due diligence statements is/are quoted for the product. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/EUDR 9.1]

1.5.4 The due diligence and due diligence statement are shared with users of the FSC Regulatory Module in the supply chain upon request.

1.6 SIMPLIFIED DUE DILIGENCE

1.6.1 A simplified due diligence can be conducted when the MU is located in a country or parts thereof classified as low risk in accordance with EUDR three-tier risk system. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 13.1]

<p>1.6.2 In cases where a simplified due diligence is exercised, the requirements in Sections 1.3 and 1.4 of this standard do not apply.</p>	 
<p>1.6.3 Relevant documentation demonstrating that there is a negligible risk of circumventing the EUDR is made available to the competent authority upon request. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/ EUDR 13.1]</p> <p>NOTE: FSC forest management certification is considered an effective risk mitigation measure to demonstrate no or only a negligible risk.</p>	 
<p>1.6.4 Simplified due diligence is not applied if The Organization obtains or is made aware of any relevant information, including the result of the assessment conducted under Clause 1.6.1 of this standard, and substantiated concerns submitted by stakeholders, that would point to a risk that the product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is not deforestation-free; b) has not been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/EUDR 13.2] 	 
<p>1.7 NON-COMPLIANCES</p>	
<p>1.7.1 If a competent authority establishes that The Organization is not compliant with the EUDR or that it has placed on the market or exported a non-compliant product, the certification body is informed about the non-compliance immediately. [Criterion 8.5, FSC-STD-60-004]</p>	 
<p>1.7.2 If The Organization obtains or is made aware of new information, including substantiated concerns, indicating that a product that they have placed on the market is at risk of non-conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, the relevant competent authorities of the country(ies) involved and organizations to whom the product has been supplied are immediately informed. [Criterion 8.5 FSC-STD-60-004/EUDR 4.5]</p>	 
<p>1.8 FSC BLOCKCHAIN</p>	
<p>NOTE FOR CONSULTATION: This section will be completed in conjunction with the development of the FSC Blockchain solution and will be applicable for organizations that choose to use the FSC Blockchain to help with ensuring conformance and traceability of the material traded. You can read more about FSC Blockchain on FSC website here: https://connect.fsc.org/innovation-sustainability/blockchain</p>	

2. FSC-STD-30-010 V3-0 - Controlled Forest Management

Applicability note: For The Organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, the conformance with <FSC-STD-30-010 V3-0 Controlled Forest Management>, and this section is mandatory. The FSC Regulatory Module is not available for use in conjunction with <FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0 FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises>.









2.1 General Requirement

- 2.1.1 Organizations applying <FSC-STD-30-010 V3-0 Controlled Forest Management> shall conform with the requirements listed in 'Section 1 (Applicable Forest Stewardship Standard) of this standard.

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3. FSC-STD-30-005 - Forest Management Groups

Applicability note: For The Organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, the conformance with <FSC-STD-30-005 Forest Management Groups>, and this section is mandatory.

<p>3.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP ENTITIES</p>	
<p>3.1.1 The FSC Regulatory Module can only be included in the scope of a forest management group if all members of the group are using the FSC Regulatory Module and demonstrating conformity with the requirements listed in Section 1 (Applicable Forest Stewardship Standard) or Section 2 (Controlled Forest Management), as applicable, and this section. [Clause 1.4 FSC-STD-30-005]</p>	 
<p>3.2 GROUP RULES</p>	
<p>3.2.1 The group rules shall include how the group addresses all applicable requirements of the FSC Regulatory Module. [Clause 9.1 FSC-STD-30-005]</p>	 
<p>3.3 DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES</p>	
<p>3.3.1 The group entity may divide the responsibilities among the different actors in the group (e.g., group entity, group members, forestry contractors, etc.), including the responsibility of implementing the due diligence. [Clause 3.1 FSC-STD-30-005]</p>	 
<p>3.4 INTERNAL MONITORING SYSTEM</p>	
<p>3.4.1 The internal monitoring system shall include an evaluation of the continued conformance of all group members with the applicable requirements of the FSC Regulatory Module. [Clause 11.1 a) i FSC-STD-30-005]</p>	 

PART 2 - ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION

Informative guidance

This section includes additional requirements to chain of custody certification for conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module. It covers CoC management system, material sourcing and handling, FSC material and product records, sales, compliance with timber legality legislation, establishment of product groups, labelling requirements, due diligence system, risk management, risk mitigation, publicly available information and simplified due diligence. For Project Certification additional requirements include administration requirements, material sourcing and FSC claim on product, material handling and project statement general requirements. For controlled wood sourcing additional requirements include requirements for due diligence system implementation and maintenance, obtaining information, risk assessment and mitigation.

How to find applicable requirements

Not all sections and clauses apply to all organizations. To help understand which clauses are applicable, refer to the chart on the right to identify the applicable icon based on organization type. In the context of this standard, organization types are based on operator, trader and SME classifications. Definitions of organization types are provided in the Terms and Definitions section at the beginning of the document.

NOTE: A single organization can either be classified as SME or Non-SME. However, an organization may act as an operator or a trader at the same time, depending on the position in the supply chain. The type of organization might further differ between different product groups.



Figure 3 Icon key based on organization type.

How to read the clauses

- 4.1.1 The organization shall appoint a management representative who acts as a compliance officer, with responsibility and authority for the organization's conformity in order to mitigate and manage the risk of non-conforming products. [Clause 1.1 a) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 11.2.(a)]

Reference to FSC standard

Reference to EU Deforestation Regulation – [EUDR (Article).(Paragraph)]

4. FSC-STD-40-004 - Chain of Custody Certification

Applicability note: For the organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module for the purpose of sourcing FSC-certified, FSC Controlled Wood or controlled material, the conformance with <FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification> and this section is mandatory.

This section can be applied to all the product groups covered by the organization's certification scope of FSC-STD-40-004 and FSC-STD-40-005, respectively, or to individual product groups only.

The organization is not allowed to use this section for sourcing controlled material from supply units that it (or an affiliated organization) owns or manages, unless an FSC risk assessment according to <FSC-PRO-60-006b V2-0 Risk Assessment Framework> has been published. Where such an FSC risk assessment is not published, these sources can be independently certified according to <FSC-STD-30-010 V3-0 Controlled Forest Management> (or its subsequent versions).

4.1 COC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	
4.1.1	<p>The organization shall appoint a management representative who acts as a compliance officer, with responsibility and authority for the organization's conformity in order to mitigate and manage the risk of non-conforming products. [Clause 1.1 a) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 11.2.(a)]</p> <p>NOTE: The appointed management representative for conformity with applicable certification requirements may also act as the compliance officer.</p>
4.1.2	<p>The organization shall maintain the records demonstrating conformity with the applicable requirements of the FSC Regulatory Module according to Clause 1.1 e). [Clause 1.1 e) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.3, 5.4, 9.1, 12.2, 12.5]</p>
4.1.3	<p>The organization shall follow the requirements of Clause 1.7, to ensure that new information that it obtains or is made aware of, including substantiated concerns that would point to a risk that products do not conform with this standard, is adequately considered. [Clause 1.7 FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.5, 5.5]</p>
4.1.4	<p>The organization shall not place non-conforming products on the market or export them. Where non-conforming products are detected, the organization shall immediately inform and provide assistance to the relevant competent authorities. [Clause 1.8 FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.4, 4.5, 5.5, 5.6]</p> <p>NOTE: A non-conforming product may also be identified by a competent authority, in which case, Clause 1.8 of <FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification> applies.</p>

4.2 MATERIAL SOURCING

4.2.1 For FSC product groups in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, the information shall include:

- a) name, registered trade name or registered trademark of the supplier;
- b) postal address, email address and (if available) a web address of the supplier. [Clause 2.1 FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 5.3.(a), 9.1.(e)]

4.2.2 The organization shall verify the supplier's sale and delivery documentation to confirm that:

- a) the Regulatory claim (i.e., 'Regulatory') is specified (if applicable);
- b) the supplied material description is in conformity with the supplied documentation, including the trade name and type of product;
- c) the quantity is expressed in:
 - i. kilograms of net mass and, where applicable, in the supplementary unit set out in Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 (20) against the indicated Harmonized System code, or
 - ii. net mass, or
 - iii. where applicable, volume or number of items. [Clause 2.3 a), b) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 9.1.(a), (b)]

NOTE 1: A supplementary unit is applicable where it is defined consistently for all possible subheadings under the Harmonized System code referred to in the due diligence statement.

NOTE 2: If the organization is receiving material from a supplier who is not required to conform with the above (from outside the EU, not applying the FSC Regulatory Module), the organization is responsible for obtaining the converted quantity as expressed above.























4.2.3 The organization shall verify that, (if applicable) the supplier's reference number/s of due diligence statements is/are quoted for supplied material. [Clause 2.3 FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.8]





















NOTE 1: For suppliers defined as SMEs thus exempted from providing due diligence statements, this refers to relevant reference numbers from their suppliers. [EUDR 4.9]

NOTE 2: FSC claims may be followed by the Regulatory claim. This does not apply to 'FSC Recycled' claims.

4.3 MATERIAL HANDLING

NOTE: The separation of materials also refers to materials supplied with the Regulatory claim or for which relevant information about the risk of origin and risk of mixing has been obtained by other means. [Clause 3.1 FSC-STD-40-004]

		 
4.4	FSC MATERIAL AND PRODUCTS RECORDS	
4.4.1	<p>The organization shall maintain up-to-date material accounting records of materials and products in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, including:</p> <p>a) inputs: (if applicable) due diligence statement reference number(s) and the Regulatory claim [Clause 4.2 a) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 5.3.(a)];</p> <p>b) outputs: due diligence statement reference number(s) and the Regulatory claim. [Clause 4.2 b) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.7]</p>	   
4.5	SALES	
4.5.1	<p>The organization shall ensure that sales documents (physical or electronic) issued for products sold with the Regulatory claim include the following information:</p> <p>a) (where applicable) the due diligence statement(s) reference number(s)</p> <p>b) a clear indication of the FSC claim followed by the Regulatory claim, for each product item or the total products. [Clause 5.1 FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.7]</p>	   
4.5.2	<p>The organization may use the abbreviation of the Regulatory claim 'REG' in sales documentation in case of space constraints, provided that:</p> <p>a) the abbreviation is specified in the organization's documented procedures, and</p> <p>b) the complete Regulatory claim (i.e., 'Regulatory') is provided to costumers through supplementary evidence as defined in Clause 5.7 of <FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification>.</p>	   
4.5.3	<p>The organization shall conform with Clause 5.7 if it is unable to include the information in Clauses 4.5.1 and 4.5.2 of this standard in sales or delivery documents. [Clause 5.7 FSC-STD-40-004]</p>	   
4.5.4	<p>The organization shall issue a due diligence statement and submit it to the competent authorities, in accordance with <u>Annex 2. Due Diligence Statement</u> before placing the product on the EU market or exporting it from the EU. [EUDR 4.2]</p> <p>NOTE: The due diligence statement may be generated using an online tool provided by FSC.</p>	  
4.5.5	<p>The organization may refer to a due diligence statement issued by a supplier/sub-supplier, provided that the requirements of Clause 4.8.2 of this standard are met. [EUDR 4.8]</p>	

<p>4.5.6 The organization shall maintain the information on all customers to whom the material with the Regulatory claim is supplied, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name, registered trade name or registered trademark; b) postal address, email address and (if available) a web address. [EUDR 5.3.(b), 9.1.(f)] 	   
<p>4.5.7 The organization may identify products exclusively made of input materials from a fully verified supply chain by adding a plus symbol to the Regulatory claim, i.e., Regulatory+ or REG+.</p>	   
<p>4.6 COMPLIANCE WITH TIMBER LEGALITY LEGISLATION</p>	
<p>4.6.1 The organization shall, upon request, provide information on species (common and full scientific name of each species), plot of land geolocation, time of production and all complementary information to operators and regulatory traders further down the supply chain, to support the conclusion of negligible risk under their DDS, and therefore comply with timber legality legislation. [Clause 6.1 FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 4.7]</p>	   
<p>4.7 ESTABLISHMENT OF PRODUCT GROUPS FOR THE CONTROL OF FSC CLAIMS</p>	
<p>4.7.1 The organization shall only use material in FSC product groups in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module and sell material with the Regulatory claim if it is in conformity with the requirements of this standard. [EUDR 4.4, 8.1]</p>	   
<p>4.7.2 The organization shall establish product groups for the purpose of controlling the Regulatory output claim, and maintain an up-to-date list specifying the following: [Clause 8.1 FSC-STD-40-004]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Regulatory claim, for the applicable output products; b) the species (common and full scientific name of each species); c) the Harmonized System (HS) code(s), with a minimum of six (6) digits. [Clause, 8.3 b), c) FSC-STD-40-004/ EUDR 9.1(a)] 	   
<p>NOTE 1: A list of possible species is not acceptable in the context of the FSC Regulatory Module.</p> <p>NOTE 2: The organization may use Annex XX [Crosswalk between <FSC-STD-40-004a FSC Product Classification> and the Harmonized System (HS) codes – under development] to define the HS code(s) corresponding to the product group.</p>	

DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM

4.8 DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM - IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

4.8.1 The organization shall have, implement, and maintain a documented DDS for material to be included in the FSC product groups within the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, in order to demonstrate that it:

- a) is deforestation-free;
- b) has been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production. [EUDR 8.1, 12.1]

NOTE 1: The organization can choose to develop its own DDS or apply a DDS developed by an external party. The certification body that evaluates the conformity of the organization with this standard is not eligible to develop the DDS.

NOTE 2: Information about the legality of production includes any arrangement conferring the land use rights to the producing supplier.

NOTE 3: Wood products which fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 2173/2005 and covered by a valid FLEGT license from an operational licensing scheme are deemed in compliance with the relevant legislation of the country of production.

4.8.2 The organization is exempt from conducting a due diligence if the material or product is covered by a due diligence statement previously issued by a supplier/sub-supplier and submitted to the competent authorities. In such cases, the organization shall provide the competent authorities with the reference number of the due diligence statement, upon request. [EUDR 4.8]

4.8.3 The organization may refer in their due diligence statement to a due diligence statement previously issued by a supplier/sub-supplier only after having ascertained that the due diligence was exercised according to the requirements of this standard. [EUDR 4.9]

NOTE 1: The organization may engage with relevant suppliers and sub-suppliers in order to obtain clear and convincing evidence of conformity.

NOTE 2: The organization retains responsibility for the conformity of the products covered by a due diligence statement issued by a supplier/sub-supplier.

4.8.4 The organization shall include all suppliers and sub-suppliers of the material assessed according to this standard in its DDS.

NOTE: With exception of a 'fully verified supply chain', suppliers and sub-suppliers are not expected to implement this standard, and it is the responsibility of the organization to ensure conformity. The organization may request suppliers to follow certain part(s) of this standard to achieve conformity.

4.8.5 The organization shall review and, if necessary, revise its DDS at least annually and prior to the annual surveillance by the certification body, and whenever changes occur that affect the relevance, effectiveness, or adequacy of the DDS (see Figure 2). [EUDR 10.4, 11.3, 12.2]

NOTE 1: Means to verify the relevance, effectiveness, or adequacy of the DDS may include, but are not limited to, stakeholder consultation, field verification and document verification, all of which may be included in internal audits as per Clause 4.10.5 of this standard.

NOTE 2: Field verification may be conducted at the supply unit level or supplier/sub-supplier’s site. When/if applied, the frequency and scope of field verification will depend on the risk identified by the organization in its DDS.

NOTE 3: Stakeholder consultation, field verification, and document verification may also be implemented as mitigation measures.

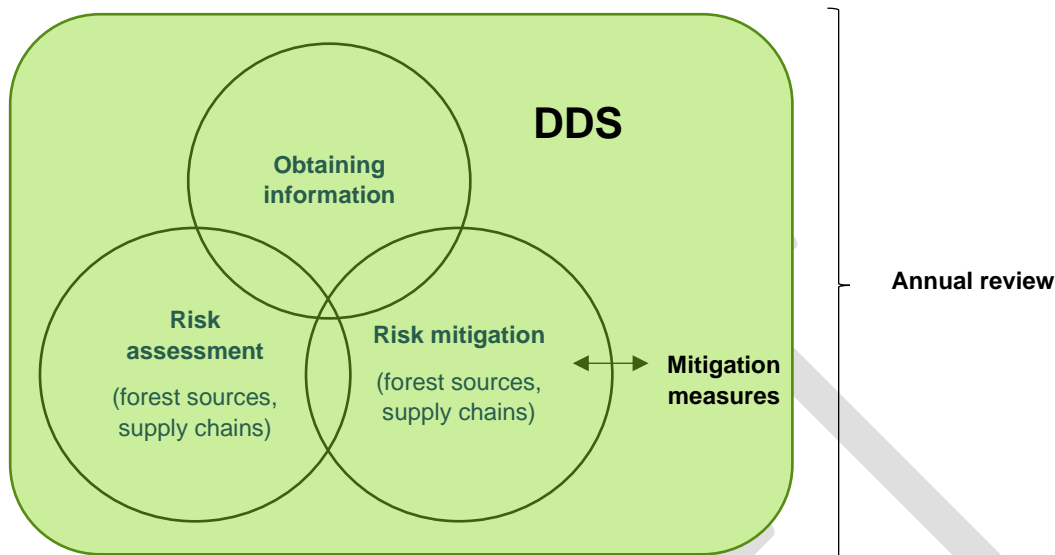


Figure 2 4 Elements of the due diligence system, and the scope of its verification

4.8.6 The organization shall implement internal audits of its DDS at least annually to ensure that it is being implemented correctly.



4.8.7 The organization shall document the scope, dates, and staff involved in internal audits.



4.8.8 The organization shall document all cases of the DDS being evaluated as ineffective during the internal audit or based on other information, and shall ensure that all relevant issues are addressed and corrected within 12 months of their detection.



4.8.9 The organization shall, upon request, provide the due diligence statement and supporting information used to complete the due diligence statement, to users of the FSC Regulatory Module further down the supply chain.



4.9 DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM - OBTAINING INFORMATION ON INPUT MATERIAL

4.9.1 In addition to the information specified by Section 4.2 of this standard, the organization shall obtain, document and maintain the following up-to-date information on material:

- a) the species (common and full scientific name of each species);

NOTE: A list of possible species is not acceptable in the context of the FSC Regulatory Module.

- b) the country of harvest and, where relevant, parts thereof;
- c) the geolocation of all plots of land where the material originates from;
- d) the date or time range of harvest (period defined by a start date and end date);
- e) applicable risk assessment developed according to the procedure <FSC-PRO-60-006b V2-0>;
- f) information about supply chains, according to 4.9.4 of this standard. [EUDR 9.1. (a), (c), (d)]



4.9.2 The geolocation of the plot of land shall be compiled according to the following criteria:

- a) more than four (4) hectares: a polygon with sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of each plot of land;
- b) four (4) hectares or less: a polygon or a single latitude and longitude point with six decimal digits. [EUDR 2.28]



4.9.3 The plot of land information shall be complemented with the reference to the respective FSC-certified Management Unit (if applicable).



4.9.4 The organization shall have access to information on its supply chains to a level that allows it to confirm and document:

- a) the origin of the material to the level of the plot of land;
- b) the risk related to the origin, and the risk related to mixing with non-eligible inputs in the supply chain (according to Clause 4.10 of this standard); and
- c) the mitigation of these risks (according to Clause 4.11 of this standard), if applicable.

NOTE: Access to information is to be understood as having copies of said information on hand during the audit, or being able to ensure that, upon request, the certification body or ASI can obtain copies before the close of the audit.





















4.9.5 Products and material from species listed in Appendices 1, 2, or 3 of CITES that will be imported, exported, or re-exported, shall be accompanied by the applicable valid certificates.



4.10 DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM - RISK ASSESSMENT

4.10.1 The organization shall review and analyse the information collected in accordance with Section 4.9 of this standard, and shall conduct a risk assessment to determine the risk of sourcing material from non-eligible sources, covering the risk of circumvention of the EUDR, risk of origin and the risk of mixing. [EUDR 10.1]



<p>4.10.2 The risk assessment shall result in the classification of material into a 'negligible' or 'non-negligible' risk category.</p>	  
<p>4.10.3 For FSC product groups in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, the organization shall only use input material if there's a conclusion of a negligible risk. [EUDR 10.1]</p>	  
<p>4.10.4 The risk assessment shall take into account the conclusions of the meetings of the Commission expert groups as published in the <u>European Commission's expert group register</u>. [EUDR 10.2.(k)]</p>	  
<p><i>RISK OF ORIGIN</i></p>	
<p>4.10.5 For FSC 100% product groups in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, the organization may conduct the risk assessment using the simplified risk assessment template provided by FSC [selected set of indicators – link to be added when available (under development in coordination with revision of FSC-PRO-60-006b)]. For sourcing of FSC Mix or FSC Controlled Wood, the organization shall use the applicable FSC risk assessment based on <FSC-PRO-60-006b FSC Risk Assessment>, if available, or conduct its own risk assessment, according to the requirements of [full set of indicators – link to be added when available (under development in coordination with revision of FSC-PRO-60-006b)], to determine the risk related to the origin of the material for each risk assessment indicator. [EUDR 10.2.(a), (h), (m)]</p>	  
<p>4.10.6 The organization shall obtain approval of its risk assessment, conducted for its supply area, and/or extended to new supply areas, from the certification body before using risk designations in its DDS.</p>	  
<p><i>RISK OF MIXING</i></p>	
<p>4.10.7 The organization shall assess and document the risk of non-eligible inputs entering FSC product groups included in the FSC Regulatory Module during transport, processing, and storage (risk of mixing). The risk of mixing shall include, at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) complexity of its supply chains (e.g., the number of tiers of suppliers, geographies in which suppliers are located, size and type of supplier's operations); b) stage of processing of the products. [EUDR 10.2.(i), (j)] <p>NOTE: The assessment of the risk of mixing aims to avoid mixing with materials of unknown origin or produced in areas where deforestation or forest degradation has occurred or is occurring.</p>	  

4.11 DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM - RISK MITIGATION

4.11.1 The organization shall establish and implement effective mitigation measures when a risk assessment conducted in accordance with Section 4.10 of this standard reveals a non-negligible risk. [EUDR 11.1]



NOTE 1: Examples of mitigation measures and guidance on their development can be found in [based on FSC-PRO-60-006b FSC Risk Assessment – link to be added when available (under development in coordination with revision of FSC-PRO-60-006b)].



NOTE 2: Measures may also include supporting conformity with this standard by the organization's suppliers, through capacity building and investments.

4.11.2 The organization shall have adequate and proportionate policies, controls and procedures to mitigate and manage effectively the risks. These shall include model risk management practices, reporting, record-keeping, internal control and compliance management. [EUDR 11.2, 11.3]



4.11.3 The organization shall implement an annual independent audit to ensure that the provisions under Clause 4.11.2 of this standard are being implemented correctly. [EUDR 11.2 (b)]



4.11.4 The organization shall document how decisions on risk mitigation procedures and measures were taken. [EUDR 11.3]



4.11.5 The organization may deem negligible risk (with no further mitigation required) for the following material unless new information that obtains or is made aware of, including substantiated concerns, may affect the conformity of certification requirements:



- a) FSC 100% material sourced through FSC-certified supply chain; or
- b) material supplied with Regulatory claim through fully verified supply chain.



4.12 DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM - PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION

4.12.1 The organization shall provide a written summary of its DDS to the certification body. At minimum, it shall include the following information:



- a) a description of the supply area(s), including the country and respective risk designation(s);
- b) a description of the product groups, including the product types, trade names (if applicable), and species (common and full scientific name of each species);
- c) the annual quantity sold per product group;
- d) reference to the applicable FSC risk assessment;
- e) the organization's own risk assessment (excluding confidential information); including the conclusions of the risk assessment and risk mitigation measures, as well as sources of evidence obtained and used to assess the risk;
- f) where applicable, a description of the process of consultation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other customary tenure rights holders or of the civil society organizations that are present in the area of production of the relevant products.
- g) the procedure for filing complaints; and

- h) contact information of the person or position responsible for addressing complaints. [EUDR 12.3, 12.4]

NOTE 1: The summary of the DDS is not required to be in one of the official languages of FSC.

NOTE 2: Under paragraph f), the description of the consultation process may be obtained through engagement with suppliers/sub-suppliers who were responsible for this process. The organization is responsible for obtaining the information and for checking for its plausibility.

4.12.2 The organization shall make the written summary publicly available, as widely as possible, including via the internet. [EUDR 12.3]



NOTE: The organization who falls within the scope of other EU legal acts that lay down requirements regarding value chain due diligence may fulfil their reporting obligations under this requirement by including the required information when reporting in the context of those other Union legal acts.



4.12.3 The organization shall review and revise the written summary of its DDS on an annual basis. [EUDR 12.3]



4.13 SIMPLIFIED DUE DILIGENCE

4.13.1 The organization can conduct a simplified due diligence if:

- a) products have been produced in countries or parts thereof classified as low risk in accordance with the EUDR three-tier risk system; and
- b) the applicable FSC Risk Assessment has a negligible risk designation; and
- c) there is no available information, including substantiated concerns, that may affect the conformity of certification requirements. [EUDR 13.1,13.2]



4.13.2 In cases where a simplified due diligence is exercised, the organization may be exempt from the application of Sections 4.10 and 4.11 of this standard, with exception of Clause 4.10.7. [EUDR 13.1]




















4.14 FSC BLOCKCHAIN

NOTE FOR CONSULTATION: This section will be completed in conjunction with the development of the FSC Blockchain solution and will be applicable for organizations that choose to use the FSC Blockchain to help with ensuring conformance and traceability of the material traded. You can read more about FSC Blockchain on FSC website here: <https://connect.fsc.org/innovation-sustainability/blockchain>

5. FSC-STD-40-006 - Standard for Project Certification

Applicability note: For the organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, the conformance with <FSC-STD-40-006 FSC Standard for Project Certification>, and this section is mandatory.

<p>5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS</p>	
<p>5.1.1 The Organization shall maintain records that demonstrate conformity with the applicable requirements of the FSC Regulatory Module according to Clause 1.6. [Clause 1.6 FSC-STD-40-006/ EUDR 4.3, 5.4, 9.1, 12.2, 12.5]</p>	   
<p>5.1.2 The Organization shall follow the requirements of Clause 1.9 to ensure that new information that it obtains or is made aware of, including substantiated concerns that would point to a risk that products do not conform with the FSC CoC Regulatory Module, is adequately considered. [Clause 1.9 FSC-STD-40-006/ EUDR 4.5, 5.5]</p>	   
<p>5.1.3 The organization shall appoint a management representative who acts as a compliance officer, with responsibility and authority for the organization's conformance to mitigate and manage the risk of non-conforming products. [Clause 2.1 FSC-STD-40-006 / EUDR 11.2 (a)]</p> <p>NOTE: The appointed management representative for conformity to applicable certification requirements may also act as the compliance officer for the Regulatory Module.</p>	
<p>5.2 MATERIAL SOURCING AND FSC CLAIMS ON PROJECTS</p>	
<p>5.2.1 For FSC product groups in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, the information shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name, registered trade name or registered trademark of the supplier; b) postal address, email address and (if available) a web address of the supplier. [Clause 4.8 FSC-STD-40-006/ EUDR 5.3.(a), 9.1. (e)] 	   
<p>5.2.2 The organization shall not use non-certified and non-controlled components for projects included in the FSC Regulatory Module. [Clause 4.4 FSC-STD-40-006]</p>	   

5.2.3 The Organization shall verify the supplier's sale and delivery documentation to confirm that:

- a) the Regulatory claim (i.e., 'Regulatory') is specified (if applicable);
- b) the supplied material description is in conformity with the supplied documentation, including the trade name and type of product;
- c) the quantity is expressed in:
 - i. kilograms of net mass and, where applicable, in the supplementary unit set out in Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 (20) against the indicated Harmonized System code, or
 - ii. net mass, or, where applicable, volume or number of items. [Clause 4.8 FSC-STD-40-006/ [EUDR 4.8, 9.1 (a), (b)]

NOTE 1: A supplementary unit is applicable where it is defined consistently for all possible subheadings under the Harmonized System code referred to in the due diligence statement.

NOTE 2: If the organization is receiving material from a supplier who is not required to conform with the above (from outside the EU, not applying the FSC Regulatory Module), the organization is responsible for obtaining the converted quantity as expressed above.

5.2.4 The Organization shall verify that, (if applicable) the supplier's reference number/s of due diligence statements is/are quoted for supplied material. [Clause 4.8 FSC-STD-40-006/ EUDR 4.8]























NOTE 1: For suppliers defined as SMEs thus exempted from providing due diligence statements, this refers to relevant reference numbers from their suppliers. [EUDR 4.9]

NOTE 2: FSC claims may be followed by the Regulatory claim. This does not apply to 'FSC Recycled' claims.

5.3 MATERIAL HANDLING

NOTE: The separation of materials also refers to materials with the Regulatory claim or for which relevant information about the risk of origin and risk of mixing has been obtained by other means. [Clause 5.1 FSC-STD-40-006]

5.3.1 The organization shall not place non-conforming products on the market or export them. Where non-conforming products are detected, the Organization shall immediately inform and provide assistance to the relevant competent authorities. [Clause 5.2 FSC-STD-40-006/ EUDR 4.4, 4.5, 5.5, 5.6]

<p>NOTE: A non-conforming product may also be identified by a competent authority, in which case, Clause 5.2 applies. [Clause 5.2 FSC-STD-40-006]</p>	 
<p>5.4 SALES</p>	
<p>5.4.1 The Organization shall issue a due diligence statement and submit it to the competent authorities, in accordance with <u>Annex 2. Due Diligence Statement</u>, before placing the product on the EU market or exporting it. [EUDR 4.2]</p>	  
<p>5.4.2 The Organization may refer to a due diligence statement issued by a supplier/sub-supplier, provided that the requirements of Clause 4.8.2 of this standard are met. [EUDR 4.8]</p>	
<p>5.4.3 The Organization shall maintain the information on all customers to whom the material with the Regulatory claim is supplied, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) name, registered trade name or registered trademark; b) postal address, email address and (if available) a web address. [EUDR 5.3(b), 9.1(f)] 	   
<p>5.5 PROJECT STATEMENT</p>	
<p>5.5.1 The Organization shall include in the project statement the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Regulatory claim; b) the due diligence statement reference number. [Clause 7.1 FSC-STD-40-006/ EUDR 4.7] 	   
<p>5.5.2 For projects under the FSC Regulatory Module, the Organization shall not refer to non-certified and non-controlled components, as prescribed in clause 7.1. [Clause 7.1 g) FSC-STD-40-006]</p>	   
<p>5.6 COMPLIANCE WITH TIMBER LEGALITY LEGISLATION</p>	
<p>5.6.1 The Organization shall, upon request, provide information on species (common and full scientific name of each species), plot of land geolocation, time of production and all complementary information to operators and regulatory traders further down the supply chain, to support the conclusion of negligible risk under their DDS, and therefore comply with timber legality legislation. [EUDR 4.7]</p>	   

DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM

Section 4.10 – 4.13 applies accordingly.



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6. FSC-STD-40-005 - Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood

Applicability note: For the organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, conformance with <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood>, and Section 4 of this standard (Chain of Custody Certification) is mandatory.

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PART 3 - ADDITIONAL TRADEMARK REQUIREMENTS

Informative guidance

This section includes additional requirements for organizations using the FSC trademarks to promote FSC-certified products in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module. All clauses apply to all organizations.

7. FSC-STD-50-001 – Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks

Applicability note: For the organization seeking conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module, the conformance with <FSC-STD-50-001 Requirements For Use of The FSC Trademarks By Certificate Holders>, and this section is mandatory.

7.1 PROMOTIONAL USE OF THE FSC TRADEMARKS
7.1.1 The organization may promote FSC-certified products in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module with the FSC trademarks. [Clause 5.1 FSC-STD-50-001]
7.1.2 The organization may describe products in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module with the following promotional statement: <i>'We conduct the EUDR-required due diligence for our [products], with support from FSC®'s robust system (www.fsc.org).'</i> [Annex C FSC-STD-50-001]
NOTE: Other alternatives are acceptable as long as they accurately convey the above meaning.
7.1.3 The organization with a fully verified supply chain may describe products in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module with the following promotional statement: <i>'We use FSC® to trace the [forest-based material] back to the forest, to ensure that our [products] are deforestation-free (www.fsc.org).'</i> [Annex C FSC-STD-50-001]
NOTE: Other alternatives are acceptable as long as they accurately convey the above meaning.

PART 4 – ADDITIONAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS

Informative guidance

This section includes additional requirements for accredited certification bodies.

General requirements include additions to extending and reducing the scope of certification, surveillance and registering of certification status and issuing certificates.

Forest management evaluations include additions to reporting requirements and certification decision.

Chain of custody evaluations include additions to evaluation requirements, evaluation at the level of the operational site, surveillance evaluation, certification decision, evaluation of controlled wood, evaluation of the organizations due diligence system under chain of custody, reporting requirements and evaluation of FSC Blockchain.

All sections and clauses apply to all accredited certification bodies.

8. FSC-STD-20-001 - General Requirements for FSC Accredited Certification Bodies

Applicability note: For the certification body conformance with <FSC-STD-20-001 General requirements for FSC accredited certification bodies>, and this section is mandatory. The certification body is required to verify the organizations' conformity to the FSC Regulatory Module by implementing the requirements in this section.

8.1	EVALUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM
8.1.1	The certification body shall design and implement a system for evaluating the relevance, effectiveness, and adequacy of the DDS, according to the scope and scale of the organization's operation. The certification body shall specify and justify in its system the means of verification of risk assessments and control measures established by the organization, including, but not limited to: a) a mechanism for verifying risk designations against available sources of information and applicable requirements; b) corroborating evidence provided by the organization with independent sources when possible.
8.1.2	The certification body shall evaluate whether the DDS has been implemented as designed and in accordance with all applicable requirements and any additional guidance provided or approved by FSC.
8.2	EXTENDING AND REDUCING THE SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION
8.2.1	The certification body shall assess their clients' conformity with the applicable requirements of the FSC Regulatory Module, at minimum as a desk-based evaluation, prior to extending the scope of certification. [Clause 1.4.6 FSC-STD-20-001]

NOTE: The assessment may be conducted at the regular time scheduled for the next scheduled evaluation or earlier as agreed with the client.

8.3 SURVEILLANCE

8.3.1 The certification body shall carry out a surveillance evaluation to assess the organization's continued conformance to all applicable certification requirements of this standard at least annually. Surveillance evaluations may be conducted more frequently depending on factors such as:

- a) allegations of nonconformity or integrity risks to the supply chain;
- b) substantiated stakeholder concerns, indicating that a relevant product that their client has placed on the market is at risk of not complying with the FSC Regulatory Module or the Regulation;
- c) notifications by their client about non-compliance detected by the competent authority. [Clause 4.7.1 FSC-STD-20-001]

8.3.2 The occurrence of one (1) or more major nonconformities against any certification requirement in this standard in a surveillance audit shall be considered as a breakdown of the clients' management system and the FSC Regulatory Module scope extension of the respective certification shall be suspended within 24 hours of the certification decision being taken. The occurrence of organizations' nonconformities related to this standard shall be considered separately from the nonconformities identified against other forest management, chain of custody and controlled wood certification requirements. [Clause 4.7.3 FSC-STD-20-001]

NOTE: A suspension of the FSC Regulatory Module scope is independent of the certification status of any other FSC certification scope.

8.3.3 The certification body shall assess a non-compliance detected by the Competent Authority upon notification by their client and shall suspend the FSC Regulatory Module scope within 24 hours of the certification decision being taken, when confirmed that the non-compliance constitutes a non-conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module.

9. FSC-STD-20-007 - Forest Management Evaluations

Applicability note: For the certification body the conformance with <FSC-STD-20-001 General requirements for FSC accredited certification bodies>, <FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations>, Section 8 of this standard and this section are mandatory.

9.1 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

9.1.1 Additional to the minimum mandatory content of the evaluation report and public summary in Annex 4 of <FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations>, the certification body shall register in the reports:

FSC REGULATORY MODULE

Information elements	Evaluation Type			SMEs	Non SMEs	Public summary
	ME	SE	RE			
77. A summary of the due diligence system, including at least: a) a summary of: i. relevant products; ii. the quantity of the relevant products; iii. the country of production; iv. the geolocation of plots of land where the product was produced, v. the date or time range of harvesting ; vi. businesses, operators, or traders to whom the relevant products have been supplied; b) a description of the information and evidence obtained and used to assess the risk, the conclusions of the risk assessment and the measures undertaken, and c) a description of the process of consultation of indigenous peoples, local communities and other customary tenure rights holders or of the civil society organizations that are present in the area of production of the relevant commodities and relevant products.	x	x	x	x		x
78. Date of the evaluation of the conformity with the FSC Regulatory Module	x	x	x	x	x	x

79. Audit findings	x	x	x	x	x	x
80. A description of any conditions and subsequent actions taken by The Organization prior to the decision to correct major or minor non-conformities with the FSC Regulatory Module that had been identified	x	x	x	x	x	x

[Annex 4 FSC-STD-20-007/EUDR 12]

9.2 CERTIFICATION DECISION

9.2.1 Non-conformities with legality requirements under Principle 1 of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard shall result in a major nonconformity with the FSC Regulatory Module. [Clause 15.7 FSC-STD-20-007/ EUDR 3]

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10. FSC-STD-20-011 - Chain of Custody Evaluations

Applicability note: For the certification body the conformance with <FSC-STD-20-001 General requirements for FSC accredited certification bodies>, <FSC-STD-20-011 Chain of Custody Evaluations>, Section 8, Part of this standard and this section is mandatory.

10.1 EVALUATION AT THE LEVEL OF THE OPERATIONAL SITE

10.1.1 The certification body shall include a review of information obtained, including complaints, disputes or allegations, that would point to a risk of nonconformity with the FSC Regulatory Module. [Clause 2.6 e) FSC-STD-20-011]

10.1.2 The evaluation of purchasing and sales documentation shall include a sample of product groups included in the FSC Regulatory Module and record the corresponding due diligence statement reference number(s). This evaluation shall be carried out according to the scope, scale, intensity, and risk of the organization's operation. [Clause 2.6 g) FSC-STD-20-011]

10.1.3 The certification body shall evaluate and confirm the plausibility of the supplementary information and evidence associated to the purchasing and sales documentation.

NOTE: To confirm the plausibility means that the evidence can be corroborated by independent sources (e.g., verifiable public sources).

10.1.4 The certification body shall confirm that the inputs used in the product groups, covered by the FSC Regulatory Module, were supplied with the Regulatory claim (if applicable).

10.2 CERTIFICATION DECISION

10.2.1 For evaluations in the scope of the FSC Regulatory Module, major nonconformities may be caused by failure of the organization to conform to any of the applicable requirements, including but not limited to examples provided in Box 1.

Examples of major nonconformities to the requirements of the FSC Regulatory Module include:

- a) Missing or incorrect information in the sales documentation (including supplementary documentation) relating to the Regulatory Module (e.g., geolocation of the plot(s) of land, date or time range of production);
- b) Incorrect or inadequate segregation measures relating to Regulatory material;
- c) False or incorrect Regulatory claims on non-eligible material;
- d) Absence of, or failure to implement, a complaint procedure;
- e) Evidence that the organization has manipulated information regarding the compliance with timber legality legislation;
- f) Failure to provide the necessary assistance to the competent authorities.

Box 1 Examples of major nonconformities for evaluation of the FSC Regulatory Module (informative guidance).

10.3 EVALUATION OF CONTROLLED WOOD ACCORDING TO FSC-STD-40-005

10.3.1 The certification body shall verify whether information on material and supply chains allows the organization to confirm the origin of the material to the plot of land and verify the time of production.[Clause 6.5 FSC-STD-20-011]

10.4 EVALUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S DUE DILIGENCE SYSTEM UNDER CHAIN OF CUSTODY

General requirements

10.4.1 The certification body shall verify whether information on material and supply chains allows the organization to:

- a) confirm the origin of the material to the plot of land;
- b) conduct a robust risk assessment related to the origin of the material;
- c) conduct a robust risk assessment related to mixing material with non-negligible inputs in supply chains;
- d) develop and implement control measures mitigating the risk(s);
- e) review and, if necessary, revise the DDS to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, or adequacy.

NOTE: This includes verification of whether the organization has enforced its suppliers to notify it of any changes affecting risk designation or mitigation.

10.4.2 All records used for evaluating the DDS shall be sampled at random. When selecting documents for sampling, the certification body shall not be guided or influenced by staff of the organization.

10.4.3 The certification body shall specify and justify the sampling rate of data, including, but not limited to:

- a) history of nonconformities;
- b) any information received by the organization and/or the certification body that would point to a risk of nonconformity;
- c) complexity and length of supply chains;
- d) the applicability of a fully verified supply chain.

10.4.4 The certification body shall verify the accuracy of the data and shall determine additional means of verification when there's a risk of nonconformity with the certification requirements.

NOTE: Field verification (audits at the forest level and on-site verification of suppliers/sub-suppliers) may be necessary to verify the accuracy of the data.

10.4.5 The certification body shall not accept information or documentation that only consists of a declaration of conformity by the organization and/or suppliers as evidence of the organization's conformity to the applicable requirements.

Evaluation of risk assessments

Risk assessment related to origin

10.4.6 The certification body shall verify the correct use of applicable FSC Risk Assessments.

10.4.7 The certification body shall verify whether the organization's risk assessment and risk designations are adequate and justified, including whether:

- a) the risk assessment follows all applicable requirements;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) the sources of information used are independent, objective, and sufficient to justify risk designation; c) the geographic scale of the assessment is adequate to the supply area(s); d) the risk designation is justified and verifiable based on sources used in the risk assessment; e) the risk specification includes sufficient information to allow the development of adequate control measures.
<p>10.4.8 The certification body shall verify whether the organization has reviewed and revised where necessary its risk assessment, to ensure the continued correctness and relevance.</p>
<p>10.4.9 The certification body shall approve a risk assessment conducted by the organization for its existing supply area, and/or extended to new supply areas, if the risk assessment process and risk designation meet the applicable requirements.</p>
<p><i>Risk assessment related to mixing material</i></p>
<p>10.4.10 The certification body shall verify whether the risk assessment related to the mixing of material with non-negligible inputs during transport, processing, and storage before the material reaches the organization is adequate to the scope of the DDS and justified.</p>
<p>Evaluation of risk mitigation</p>
<p>10.4.11 The certification body shall verify the implementation and the adequacy of control measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) a sample of each type of control measure for each type of risk identified in the DDS. The sampling rate shall be established and justified by the certification body according to the scope of the DDS; b) results of internal and external audits by the organization; c) comments, complaints, appeals, substantiated concerns, and any information received by the certification body; d) the process of review and revision of the DDS by the organization.
<p>10.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS Additional to section 12 - Table B. Minimum content of evaluation reports</p>
<p>10.5.1 FSC-STD-01-004 (including the version number) shall be added as an applicable FSC standard to item 2 (Certification scope information) paragraph e).</p>
<p>10.5.2 A brief description of the system by which the organization maintains control of all product groups under the FSC Regulatory Module shall be added to the Evaluation findings in item 4 paragraph a) and item 5 paragraph a).</p>
<p>10.5.3 The certification body shall include a section for the evaluation of the FSC Regulatory Module requirements, including the following as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) description of the DDS; b) information made publicly available by the organization, or references to such (according to Section 4.12 of this standard). This information shall be available for the period of validity of the certificate; c) information about who has developed the DDS or elements of it, including whether the DDS was developed by an external party; d) (where applicable) brief summary of the risk mitigation measures applied by the organization;

- e) (where applicable) brief summary of findings from field verification(s) (including audits at the forest level and on-site verification of suppliers in the supply chain), with justification for the sampling rate applied.

10.6 EVALUATION OF FSC BLOCKCHAIN

10.6.1 The certification body shall include the FSC Blockchain tool in its evaluation when the organization applies for all or part of the FSC product groups included in the scope of the FSC CoC Regulatory Module.

10.6.2 The certification body shall review and assess that the information is accurate and up-to-date, including at minimum:

- a) list of suppliers;
- b) material accounting records;
- c) (where applicable) supporting documentation used for the due diligence statement.

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ANNEXES

1. Interpretations

Interpretation #01 (INT-STD-01-004_01)

In Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, 'deforestation-free' is defined as:

- a) that the relevant products contain, have been fed with or have been made using, relevant commodities that were produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation after 31 December 2020; and
- b) in the case of relevant products that contain or have been made using wood, that the wood has been harvested from the forest without inducing forest degradation after 31 December 2020.

Do forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit meet the criteria to be considered 'deforestation-free' as defined by the Regulation?

Yes, with the enforcement of ADVICE-20-007-XX Deforestation-free products from FSC certified management units, forest products originating from an FSC-certified management unit and sold with the FSC claim can be considered 'deforestation-free' as defined by the Regulation

Interpretation #02 (INT-STD-01-004_02)

FSC definition of conversion covers lasting changes of natural forest cover or High Conservation Value areas, induced by human activity. Does FSC address non-human induced deforestation?

Yes. Criterion 10.9 in <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> requires The Organization to assess risks and implement activities to reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards.

Examples of natural hazards that may induce deforestation include drought, fires, landslides, storms, diseases, etc. The Organization prevents and mitigates risks by, among others, having management plans in place, integrated pest management, monitoring systems, managing forests for resilience, etc., which makes FSC an effective measure to reduce the likelihood and impact of non-human induced deforestation. In addition, Criterion 10.1 of <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> requires The Organization to regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions after harvest or in accordance with the management plan.

Interpretation #03 (INT-STD-01-004_03)

FSC defines 'forest' as a tract of land dominated by trees. Is this aligned with the definition of forest by EUDR?

Yes, FSC does not specify minimum thresholds in terms of area or tree height in its forest definition. Regarding canopy cover, the FSC definitions of 'natural forest' and 'plantation' specify that it includes a range of forest types, from woodlands and savannas to boreal, temperate and tropical primary forests, some of them with canopies characterized by canopy covers starting at 10 %.

Interpretation #04 (INT-STD-01-004_04)

EUDR defines 'forest degradation' as: structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:

- a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or**
- b) primary forests into planted forests;**

This definition is different from the FSC definition on degradation. Do forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit meet the requirements of being produced without inducing forest degradation as per the EUDR definition?

Yes. Despite the fact that FSC and the EUDR have adopted different definitions for the term degradation, FSC ensures that forest products sourced from an FSC certified management unit do not induce forest degradation after 31 December 2020 as required by the EUDR.

Background:

Based on the EUDR definition of degradation, the following five conversion scenarios are prohibited:

- 1) Conversion of primary forests into plantation forests,
- 2) Conversion of primary forests into other wooded land,
- 3) Conversion of naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests,
- 4) Conversion of naturally regenerating forests into other wooded land,
- 5) Conversion of primary forests into planted forests.

Interpretation #05 (INT-STD-01-004_05)

Does FSC allow conversion of naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land?

No, the characteristics of a 'naturally regenerating forest' according to EUDR are:

- a) forests for which it is not possible to distinguish whether planted or naturally regenerated;
- b) forests with a mix of naturally regenerated native tree species and planted or seeded trees, and where the naturally regenerated trees are expected to constitute the major part of the growing stock at stand maturity;
- c) coppice from trees originally established through natural regeneration;
- d) naturally regenerated trees of introduced species.

Characteristics a) to c) fall within the scope of the FSC definition of "natural forests" and their conversion is prohibited by Criterion 6.9 of [FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#).

Regarding d), removal of 'naturally regenerated trees of introduced species' may be necessary when implementing responsible forest management as a strategy to remove invasive species that can lead to ecological and economic damages. FSC's interpretation is that the EUDR does not intend to prohibit this scenario.

Interpretation #06 (INT-STD-01-004_06)

In EUDR, 'planted forest' means forest predominantly composed of trees established through planting and/or deliberate seeding, provided that the planted or seeded trees are expected to

constitute more than 50% of the growing stock at maturity; it includes coppice from trees that were originally planted or seeded.

Does FSC use the term 'planted forest' and how is 'planted forest' defined in FSC system?

FSC does not use the term 'planted forest'. Depending on the intensity of management as well as the different purposes for growth, EUDR definition for 'planted forest' (adopted from FAO (2023)) overlaps with FSC definitions of plantation and natural forest.

According to FAO's explanation of the definition, 'planted forests' can resemble natural ecological processes to a greater or lesser extent. There is a trend towards referring to 'planted forest' of exotic species as 'plantation forests' (with single or few species, even age class, uniform planting density), which would be equivalent with the FSC definition of 'plantation'.

Meanwhile, 'planted forests' of native species are forms of 'semi-natural forests' or 'modified natural forests' (depending on degree of naturalness, including mixed species and age classes and variable planting density), which would be equivalent with the FSC definition of 'natural forest'.

Therefore, 'planted forest' can be considered belonging to the 'natural forest' definition, as long as the forest does not meet the FSC definition of 'plantation'.

In the context of EUDR, the term 'planted forest' is of relevance under the scenario of 'forest degradation' that addresses conversion of primary forests into planted forests.

As explained under the definition of 'forest degradation', primary forests qualify as HCVs and are covered by the definition of conversion. The conversion of primary forest to planted forest is then seen as HCVs destruction therefore prohibited under the FSC system. Considering this, FSC does not see the need to adopt/adapt the term and definition on 'planted forest'.

Interpretation #07 (INT-STD-01-004_07)

FSC does not define 'other wooded land'. Is there a term comparable to this definition in the FSC system?

Yes, land not classified as 'forest', is defined as areas of 'non-forest land-use' in the FSC system.

Interpretation #08 (INT-STD-01-004_08)

Is compliance with the relevant legislation of the country of production as per EUDR covered by FSC requirements?

Yes, for forest management certification, Principle 1 of the <[FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)> requires The Organization to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements. The requirement for Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous Peoples is covered by Principle 3.

Further details on the minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements that Standard Developers have to include in the Forest Stewardship Standard is reflected in Annex A of <[FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators](#)>.

For chain of custody, as per Clause 6.1 of the <[FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification](#)> "the organization shall ensure that its FSC-certified and controlled wood products or timber products conform to all applicable timber legality legislation." It also further elaborates that trade and customs laws include: "bans, quotas and other restrictions on the export of timber products (e.g., bans on the export of

unprocessed logs or rough-sawn lumber), requirements for export licences for timber and timber products, official authorisation that entities exporting timber and timber products may require and taxes and duties applying to timber product exports."

For sourcing FSC Controlled Wood, the risk assessment indicators as per FSC-PRO-60-006b, as well as Annex A, Clause 3.6 of the <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for sourcing FSC Controlled Wood> requires the organizations to use the minimum list of applicable laws, regulations, nationally ratified international treaties, conventions, and agreements.

NOTE: the procedure <FSC-PRO-60-006b V2-0> which replaces <FSC-PRO-60-002a FSC National Risk Assessment Framework> is under development. It will be available for use simultaneously with the Regulatory Module.

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2. Due Diligence Statement

Information to be contained in the due diligence statement in accordance with Article 4(2):

1. Operator's name, address and, in the event of relevant commodities and relevant products entering or leaving the market, the Economic Operators Registration and Identification (EORI) number in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 952/2013.
2. Harmonised System code, free-text description, including the trade name as well as, where applicable, the full scientific name, and quantity of the relevant product that the operator intends to place on the market or export. For relevant products entering or leaving the market, the quantity is to be expressed in kilograms of net mass and, where applicable, in the supplementary unit set out in Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 against the indicated Harmonised System code or, in all other cases, expressed in net mass specifying a percentage estimate or deviation or, where applicable, volume or number of items. A supplementary unit is applicable where it is defined consistently for all possible subheadings under the Harmonised System code referred to in the due diligence statement.
3. Country of production and the geolocation of all plots of land where the relevant commodities were produced. For relevant products that contain or have been made using cattle, and for such relevant products that have been fed with relevant products, the geolocation shall refer to all the establishments where the cattle were kept. Where the relevant product contains or has been made using commodities produced in different plots of land, the geolocation of all plots of land shall be included in accordance with Article 9(1), point (d).
4. For operators referring to an existing due diligence statement pursuant to Article 4(8) and (9), the reference number of such due diligence statement.
5. The text: 'By submitting this due diligence statement the operator confirms that due diligence in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 was carried out and that no or only a negligible risk was found that the relevant products do not comply with Article 3, point (a) or (b), of that Regulation.'
6. Signature in the following format:
'Signed for and on behalf of:
Date:
Name and function: Signature:'.



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