

New requirements for farmers for the 2024 harvest following the EU Deforestation Regulation

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Background

From December 30, 2024, all soy traded in the EU, as well as relevant products such as soy meal and soy oil, must comply with the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). This means that the 2024 harvest must already meet these requirements. Exception: Micro and small enterprises have until June 30, 2025. Soya that is sold on the EU market before the end of this transition period does not have to meet the requirements. However, it is currently unclear whether companies that sell to medium and large companies, where the goods are mixed, will still have to provide all data according to the EUDR despite the exception.

According to the EUDR, geolocation data must be available for all soy fields. The geolocation data must be uploaded to a new EUDR information system as part of the due diligence declaration (not the same as the Donau Soja voluntary declarations) – otherwise the soy may not be sold on the EU market. Each due diligence declaration receives a reference number that must be passed along the supply chain.

What does this mean for farmers

EU farmers: As first-time distributors, EU farmers must fill out the due diligence declaration or can, for example, authorize the storage facility to do this. In both cases, the geolocation data of all soy fields must be collected and passed on from the 2024 harvest onwards. (Exception: If farmers fall under the definition of medium or large enterprises, then the soy must meet the requirements from December 30, 2024. Definition of SMEs here: <https://www.donausoja.org/eudr-infoprocess/>)

Donau Soja self-commitment declarations (SVE) and geolocation data

There are various ways for Donau Soja / Europe Soya farmers to pass on geolocation data.

From harvest 2025 at the latest, EU farmers can share geolocation data in one of the following ways:

- 1) Available at farm: The data is available and will be available upon request.
- 2) Upload to the Donau Soja IT system: In the Donau Soja database, the geolocation and polygon data is marked and saved directly, like with Google Earth. Information including explanatory videos will follow shortly.
- 3) Delivered to the Donau Soja certified first collector: The Donau Soja certified first collector is authorized to fill out the due diligence declaration and the geolocation data will be passed on to him.
- 4) Reference number of the EUDR due diligence declaration: The geolocation data is entered directly by the farmer into the EUDR information system as part of the due diligence declaration and the reference number is stated in the Donau Soja/Europe Soya Farmers' Self-Commitment Declaration.

Information about geolocation data of the cultivated areas

For the 2024 harvest, the geolocation data of all soybean cultivation areas must be determined. A geocoordinate consists of a latitude and a longitude value, each with six decimals.

- Soybean fields < 4 ha: One geolocation data point within the field is sufficient.
- Soy fields > 4ha: geolocation data must be collected as polygons = one geocoordinate per “corner” of the field so that the boundaries of the field can be traced.

The geolocation data can be determined on site using a computer or mobile phone.

Tips on how to determine geolocation data with just a few clicks using a mobile phone or computer can be found on our website:

<https://www.donausoja.org/eudr-information-for-farmers/>



Contact

Adelheid Völkl

*Director Quality Management
and Standard Development*

Phone.: +43 664 885 972 36
E-Mail: voelkl@donausoja.org

Dagmar Gollan

*Executive Director Donau Soja
Association*

Phone.: +43 664 960 68 66
E-Mail: gollan@donausoja.org