



EU Forced Labour Regulation

LEGISLATION FACTSHEET

The Council of the European Union [reports that](#) "approximately 27.6 million people work in forced labour conditions around the world, in many industries and in every continent. Most forced labour takes place in the private sector, while some is imposed by public authorities".

To investigate and combat instances of forced labour, the EU Forced Labour Regulation (EUFLR) entered into force on 13 December 2024 and applies from 14 December 2027. From that date, the Regulation prohibits economic operators from placing or making available on the EU market, including online and by other means of distance sale, products made with forced labour, and from exporting such products.

Objective

The EU's Forced Labor Regulation (EUFLR) aims to improve the functioning of the internal market and contribute to the fight against forced labour.

Forced labour is defined in line with the definition in the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 29 which is: "all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily."

Which companies are in scope?

The EUFLR applies to all economic operators, EU and non-EU, irrespective of size and sector, that place or make available products on the EU market or export products from the EU.

Which aspects of the value chain are covered?

The prohibition applies to all products sourced or manufactured by the economic operators described above. This also includes the product's components, regardless of geographic origin or industry. All aspects of the life cycle of the product (and its components) are affected, including any stage of its production, manufacture, harvest or extraction, in whole or in part.

Enforcement

If the competent authority identified by the individual Member States or the Commission determines a violation of the EUFLR, it shall order:

- a ban on placing or making the products available on the EU market, as well as on exporting them;
- the withdrawal of any affected products already placed or made available on the EU market;
- the investigated business to dispose of the affected products.

Penalties will follow in case of non-compliance and will be determined by individual Member States.

The Forced Labour Single Portal

The EU Commission launched the Forced Labour Single Portal in June 2026. It currently hosts:

- The Commission's non-binding Guidelines setting out the scope of the law; the investigation and enforcement process and a due diligence framework built on the OECD six-steps.
- The list of Member State competent authorities.
- An SME Anti-Forced Labour Preparedness Checklist.
- An 'in development' page on the Forced Labour Database of documented, widespread and severe forced labour risks by product and geography.

What's next?

The EU Forced Labour Regulation will become applicable from December 2027 and a Single Information Submission Point will be made available for anyone to submit

information on suspected forced labour. Ahead of December 2027, the Commission is expected to launch the Forced Labour Database and the member states are expected to complete the designation of their competent authorities.

Further resources

- [EU Forced Labour Single Portal](#)
- [Human rights due diligence guide](#)

ETI cannot determine an individual company's legal liability. ETI encourages companies to consult their legal teams, who should have full knowledge of the company's contractual relationships across the value chain and are best placed to determine the applicability of relevant laws to their operations. In navigating human rights due diligence legislation, ETI's advice is to continue to act in line with the UNGPs, the OECD guidelines, and the [ETI Base Code](#).