

## Are You an Operator or Trader?

If your business is importing or trading wood, wood furniture and other wood products in the European Union, you should be well underway to implementing the [EU Timber Regulation](#) (EUTR) to ensure that illegally harvested wood is not part of your product or supply chain. If not, there is a risk that you are currently breaking the law, which can lead to substantial fines and confiscation of goods.

Here are five steps to identify your role and responsibilities:

1. **Find out if your product is covered.** Many wood products fall under the EUTR but not all products do. You can check [this list](#) to see if your product is covered by the EUTR.
2. **Determine if you are an 'Operator' or a 'Trader'.** The EUTR distinguishes between businesses by separating who initially place wood or wood products on the EU market (defined as 'Operators') and businesses trading in wood or wood products already placed on the EU market (defined as 'Traders'). Find out what definition applies to your business by taking this quick [EUTR test](#).
3. **Understand your responsibilities.** 'Operators' need to fulfil EUTR due diligence requirements. Both 'Operators' and 'Traders' are required to keep a record for 5 years of all buyers and suppliers they have traded with. Learn more about the due diligence requirements [here](#).
4. **Consult your Competent Authority.** While enforcement and the effectiveness of implementation vary across the EU, the rules do not differ and apply to all EU member states. This [list](#) provides you with contact details for the Competent Authority (CA) in your country.
5. **Act.** The EUTR was introduced in 2013, but many 'Operators' and 'Traders' are still unaware of its existence. Member states across the EU are now introducing measures to align with the regulation by performing customs checks on imported goods and on-site visits to companies. Not complying with the EUTR could have major consequences for your business.

Explore our helpful EUTR guides [here](#).

Click here to access the [EU Timber Regulation](#) as adopted by the European Union.



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