



2024/3234

23.12.2024

REGULATION (EU) 2024/3234 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 19 December 2024

amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards provisions relating to the date of application

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 192(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾ was adopted to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. It lays down rules regarding the placing and making available on the Union market as well as the export from the Union of relevant products, as listed in its Annex I, that contain, have been fed with or have been made using relevant commodities, namely cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood. In particular, it aims to ensure that those commodities and relevant products are placed or made available on the Union market or exported, only if they are deforestation-free, have been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production and covered by a due diligence statement. Most of the provisions of that Regulation are to apply from 30 December 2024.
- (2) To ensure that Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 achieves its objectives, operators and traders making available on the market or exporting relevant products are to exercise due diligence in accordance with Article 8 of that Regulation in order to prove that the relevant products comply with the requirements of that Regulation. Operators are responsible for a thorough examination and analysis of their own business activities, which primarily requires the collection of data that are relevant to Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, and appropriate documentation supporting those data, from each particular supplier.
- (3) The Commission took substantial steps to facilitate the application of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, engaging with Member States and stakeholders. In particular, the Guidance Document for Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products provides guidance to operators, traders as well as competent authorities on the main obligations laid down in Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 and clarifies, inter alia, the interpretation of the definition of 'agricultural use', in particular in relation to the conversion of forest to land the purpose of which is not agricultural use, as requested by the European Parliament and the Council.
- (4) In addition, the communication from the Commission of 7 November 2024 on the Strategic Framework for International Cooperation Engagement in the context of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation provides a comprehensive structure for cooperation with third countries to facilitate the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115. It also outlines the general principles the Commission intends to apply to the classification of low-risk and high-risk countries or parts thereof in accordance with Article 29(3) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.

⁽¹⁾ Opinion of 23 October 2024 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

⁽²⁾ Position of the European Parliament of 17 December 2024 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and decision of the Council of 18 December 2024.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 (OJ L 150, 9.6.2023, p. 206).

- (5) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3084 ⁽⁴⁾ provides for an information system and access to it to operators and traders, and if applicable, their authorised representatives, competent authorities, and customs authorities to enable them to fulfil their respective obligations, as laid down in Regulation (EU) 2023/1115. Operators and traders would thus be able to register and submit due diligence statements even before the date of application of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115.
- (6) The date of application of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 that lay down obligations on operators, traders and competent authorities, listed in Article 38(2) of that Regulation, should be postponed by 12 months. This is necessary in order to allow third countries, Member States, operators and traders to be fully prepared, including, to allow those operators and traders to establish the necessary due diligence systems covering all relevant commodities and products, so as to be in a position to fully comply with their obligations.
- (7) In light of the postponement by 12 months of the date of application set out in Article 38(2) of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, the dates in interlinked provisions of that Regulation, namely the dates provided for the repeal of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁵⁾, and for the deferred application of the provisions referred to in that paragraph to micro-undertakings or small undertakings, should be adjusted accordingly.
- (8) However, to provide operators and traders with the information on assignment of risk to relevant countries of production well in advance of the date from which their due diligence obligations apply, the date by which the Commission is to classify countries, or parts thereof, that present a low or high risk should be postponed by only 6 months.
- (9) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely to postpone the date of application of the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 that lay down obligations on operators, traders and competent authorities, cannot be achieved by the Member States but can only be achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.
- (10) Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (11) This Regulation should enter into force as a matter of urgency on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union* in order to ensure that this Regulation enters into force before the initial date of application of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Amendments to Regulation (EU) 2023/1115

Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 is amended as follows:

- (1) in Article 29, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

‘2. On 29 June 2023, all countries shall be assigned a standard level of risk. The Commission shall classify countries or parts thereof, that present a low or high risk in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article. The list of the countries or parts thereof, that present a low or high risk shall be published by means of implementing acts to be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 36(2), no later than 30 June 2025. That list shall be reviewed, and updated if appropriate, as often as necessary in light of new evidence.’;

- (2) Article 37 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 37

Repeal

1. Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 is repealed with effect from 30 December 2025.
2. However, Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 shall continue to apply until 31 December 2028 to timber and timber products as defined in Article 2, point (a), of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 that were produced before 29 June 2023 and placed on the market from 30 December 2025.

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3084 of 4 December 2024 on the functioning of the information system pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation (OJ L, 2024/3084, 6.12.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/3084/oj).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (OJ L 295, 12.11.2010, p. 23).

3. By way of derogation from Article 1(2) of this Regulation, the timber and timber products as defined in Article 2, point (a), of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 that were produced before 29 June 2023 and placed on the market from 31 December 2028 shall comply with Article 3 of this Regulation.’;

(3) in Article 38, paragraphs 2 and 3 are replaced by the following:

‘2. Subject to paragraph 3 of this Article, Articles 3 to 13, Articles 16 to 24 and Articles 26, 31 and 32 shall apply from 30 December 2025.

3. Except as regards the products covered in the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 995/2010, for operators that by 31 December 2020 were established as micro-undertakings or small undertakings pursuant to Article 3(1) or (2) of Directive 2013/34/EU, respectively, the Articles referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article shall apply from 30 June 2026.’.

Article 2

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 19 December 2024.

For the European Parliament

The President

R. METSOLA

For the Council

The President

BÓKA J.