

Big changes and promising beginnings



Small steps towards a better world

Forests play a crucial role in maintaining our climate, preserving biodiversity, and supporting the well-being of people globally. To safeguard these vital ecosystems, the European Union has mandated since 2013, under the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), that only legally harvested timber can be placed on the EU market. Starting December 30, 2025, this regulation will be enhanced by the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). This new framework not only requires timber to be legally sourced but also ensures it is deforestation-free and fully traceable to its specific origin.

The EUTR obliges operators to establish a due diligence system comprising three key components: information collection, risk assessment, and risk mitigation. With the EUDR, this system will be further developed to include mandatory geolocation at the plot level, the use of satellite data, and the submission of a due diligence statement via a new EU information system.

From good to better

At Vandecasteele Houtimport, we have taken responsibility on-site for many years. We have adhered to the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) since 2013, and our due diligence policy has been fully integrated into all our operations. We prioritize certified wood (FSC®-C018601, PEFC/07-32-04, OLB, TLV, Preferred by Nature), ensuring that its origin is rigorously verified for legality and responsible forest management. This approach helps us minimize risks in the source country and facilitates compliance with the new EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

We collaborate with external auditors and employ our own forest engineer to inspect purchases from Latin America on-site. Our compliance team diligently monitors all matters related to CITES, FLEGT, EUTR, EUDR, and other standards daily.

Starting December 30, 2025, our invoices will feature TRACE verification numbers, demonstrating our commitment to transparency. As our customer, you can rest assured that we handle the entire process. All our certificates and our sustainability report are available on our website.

1



No poverty

2



Zero hunger

3



Good health

4



Quality education

5



Gender equality

6



Clean water

7



Affordable and clean energy

8



Industry, innovation and infrastructure

9



Decent work and economic growth

10



Reduced inequalities

11



sustainable cities and communities

12



Responsible consumption and production

13



Climate action

14



Life below water

15



Life on land

16



Peace, justice and strong institutions

17



Partnerships for the goals

Balance between trade and regulation

TRACE verification will be central to the EUDR process. Before placing wood products on the EU market, each operator must submit a due diligence declaration via the European Commission's information system. This declaration must include the exact geographical coordinates of the felling area, the date of harvest, and confirmation of deforestation-free production. Without a TRACE ID, sales within the EU are prohibited.

The new rules will enhance supply chain transparency by requiring companies to provide detailed information on the timbers origin, harvesting methods, legality, and any potential risks of deforestation or human rights violations. Each product will receive a TRACE verification number.

At Vandecasteele Houtimport, we blend external expertise with in-depth regulatory knowledge and a forward-thinking approach. We are your trusted partner.

Goals with a clear direction

At Vandecasteele Houtimport, we exceed legal requirements by taking responsibility for the planet, human rights, and fair trade. We believe that companies should lead the way in transitioning to a sustainable economy.

We deliberately choose certified timber, ensure transparency throughout the supply chain, and collaborate with partners who share our vision. We are proud to be the first timber company globally to receive UNITAR certification from CIFAL FLANDERS as an 'SDG Pioneer' and 'SDG Champion'.

Additionally, we are members of the Voka Charter Sustainable Business, actively committing to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Each year, we launch new initiatives to continually enhance our impact.

For more information on our efforts, please visit our website:

[Sustainability Vandecasteele](#)

Buying from a responsible supplier makes you a responsible buyer.

RE:
THINK
WOOD

