

Deforestation-Free Supply Chains and Forest Protection

1. Introduction

At Group of Butchers, we are committed to conducting our business in an ethical and sustainable manner. We recognize the impact of deforestation on the environment, biodiversity, and climate, and affirm our commitment to minimizing our contribution to deforestation, in line with the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all aspects of our operations, including procurement, sourcing, and supply chain management related to food production. It specifically addresses land-use changes, particularly regarding the sourcing of beef, veal, and the use of soy and palm oil—either as ingredients in our products or as feed for the animals we process for meat. Where applicable, this policy also covers other commodities listed in the EUDR.

We aim for full compliance with both the European Deforestation Regulation and international standards.

As of July 2023, products originating from areas deforested after December 31, 2020, may no longer be placed on the EU market.

Note: For beef, this applies to animals born after July 2023.

3. Principles

No-Conversion Supply Chains and Protection of Other Natural Ecosystems

Group of Butchers commits to eliminating deforestation from its operations and supply chains.

"Deforestation-free" means that natural forests are not converted into agriculture, tree plantations, livestock production, or other forms of land use, and that natural forests are not subject to severe or prolonged degradation.

Supply Chain Traceability and Risk Assessment

We aim for full traceability within our supply chain. We conduct regular risk assessments and due diligence to identify and mitigate potential deforestation risks, with a specific focus on countries with higher deforestation risks. We distinguish between low- and high-risk countries based on European criteria.

Sustainable Procurement of Commodities and Animal Feed

We prioritize sourcing from suppliers who follow responsible land-use practices and comply with relevant environmental standards. We also require our suppliers to adopt sustainable practices when sourcing these commodities, respecting the rights of local communities and ecosystems. In addition to demonstrating deforestation-free (geo)locations, we require suppliers to certify products against both deforestation and social standards as described in the EUDR.

AALTER - ALKEN - URSEL - AMSTERDAM - BARNEVELD - BORN - DELFT - EERSEL - GIFHORN - RUINERWOLD - RECOGNE
NUTH - OOSTERZELE - SASSENHEIM - TEGELEN - TILBURG - WARENDORF - WETSCHEN - AARTSELAAR - TIELT - WACHELEN



4. Implementation

Supplier Engagement and Compliance

We work closely with our suppliers to communicate our deforestation policy. We are committed to engaging suppliers in achieving sustainability goals and encouraging them to implement practices that prevent deforestation. This process includes drafting supplier requirements with clear environmental objectives and conditions.

Continuous Improvement

Group of Butchers continuously evaluates and improves its policies and practices to comply with legal requirements, industry standards, and the latest scientific insights. We adapt our policies for high-risk countries to further strengthen sustainable sourcing practices.

5. Reporting, Transparency, and Accountability

Public Disclosure

In line with the principles of transparency and accountability under the EUDR, we will report on our progress, challenges, and performance in preventing deforestation. This includes publicly disclosing our efforts to comply with this policy, including impacts on communities, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

Responsibility and Oversight

Responsibility for implementing and complying with this policy rests at all levels of our organization. Designated staff will oversee its implementation and report regularly to senior management. There will also be oversight concerning the rights of stakeholders, including Indigenous communities and small-scale producers potentially affected by the supply chain.

6. Compliance and Sanctions

Group of Butchers enforces a strict compliance policy for deforestation-free supply chains. Suppliers who fail to comply with our policy or receive a negative assessment will have a maximum of four months to correct deficiencies.

If compliance remains absent or insufficient progress is made, we will take further measures, including suspension or termination of the partnership. We only work with suppliers who take our policy seriously and actively contribute to a responsible and sustainable supply chain.

7. Conclusion

At Group of Butchers, we recognize the urgency of protecting forests and biodiversity. By strictly adhering to this policy, we aim to make a meaningful contribution to global efforts to prevent deforestation and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

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