



Info sheet

Deforestation-free supply chains for soy

This information sheet summarizes the requirements for the purchase and possibilities of certification of “deforestation-free soy”.

Subject matter and scope of application of Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 Deforestation-free cultivation (extract)

(1) This Regulation lays down rules for the placing and making available on the Union market and for the export from the Union of relevant products listed in Annex I containing, fed with or produced using relevant raw materials, namely bovine animals, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soybean and timber, in order to

- a) minimize the Union's contribution to global deforestation and forest degradation and thereby contribute to reducing global deforestation
- b) reduce the Union's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and global biodiversity loss.
- c) Land shall only be considered deforestation-free if no conversion of forest for agricultural use has taken place since December 31, 2020.

[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/ 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 \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj)

Delimitation of pastus+/QS additional module “SoyPlus” to the EU Deforestation Regulation

As of 01.01.2024, the use of “deforestation-free soy” is mandatory for participation in pastus+ or QS. This means that only “deforestation-free soy” may be used for feed labeled as suitable for pastus+ and QS in accordance with these guidelines.

For this purpose, a corresponding certification according to a supply chain model recognized by pastus+ and QS (e.g. DonauSoja/EuropeSoya, ISCC) is required for soy or soy by-products.

The requirements defined by pastus+ and QS for the additional modules “SojaPlus” are not identical to the EU Deforestation Regulation VO (EU) 2023/1115 (hereinafter referred to as EUDR) with regard to the purchase of “deforestation-free soy”. The modules require a certification for soy that proves that the soy was produced without deforestation and without land conversion. The EUDR, which comes into force on December 30, 2024, does not require such certification and only refers to freedom from deforestation, not freedom from land conversion. Consequently, soya that meets the legal requirements of the EUDR is not automatically recognized by pastus+ and QS.

One major difference, for example, is the collection of geolocation data to identify the areas under cultivation, which is a fundamental requirement of the EUDR. The additional module “SojaPlus” for pastus+ and QS does not currently provide for the collection of this geodata. There are also differences with regard to sustainability criteria and the consideration of social, economic and ecological aspects.



Subject and scope of the additional module “SojaPlus” for pastus+ and QS licensees

The scope of the guideline includes pastus+ and QS certified feed traders (including collection trade) as well as compound feed and feed material manufacturers who trade, treat or process soybeans and their products or feed containing soybean products.

The requirements apply to all countries where soybeans are grown. Organically certified (in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848) soybeans and by-products are not automatically considered deforestation-free for the purposes of these requirements and must therefore also provide evidence of certification in accordance with one of the recognized supply models. Manufacturers of premixes and pure service providers for road transport, storage and handling are currently exempt from these requirements.

According to the current requirements, primary agricultural producers are not required to participate (with the exception of primary producers in Moldova and Ukraine for the DonauSoja/EuropeSoya standard).

A list of the approved supply chain models and the feed materials for which these certificates are required can be found on the websites of the respective standard operators.

pastus+

[Zusatzmodul SojaPlus](#)

QS

[Zusatzmodul SojaPlus](#)

agroVet can offer certifications according to the recognized supply chain models DonauSoja/EuropeSoya and ISSC to meet the requirements of pastus+ and QS for the purchase of “deforestation-free soy”, about which we will inform you briefly below. Which certification is most suitable for the individual farms depends on the size and shape of the farm.

DonauSoja / EuropeSoya

The EUDR is not about excluding deforestation, but companies must implement a due diligence process. Certifications such as DonauSoja and EuropeSoya are a tool that can help with this.

For DonauSoja and EuropeSoya certified soy, the two standards have been adapted in such a way that, according to the current state of knowledge, they will help to comply with the EUDR requirements in the best possible way. As the EU Commission has not yet clarified all questions, it is not possible to make a final statement at this time.

For DonauSoja/EuropeSoya certified soy, it can be assumed that no deforestation has taken place after 2008 (EUDR requirement is after 2020) and compliance with the relevant laws is checked as part of the inspection. It is planned that all relevant information for the due diligence declaration will be provided by the farmers as part of the self-commitment declaration. This information can be shared in the DonauSoja database if desired.

DonauSoja/EuropeSoya can therefore provide the necessary information for the preparation of the due diligence declaration. The due diligence declaration must be prepared by the companies that buy and sell the relevant products themselves.

[EUDR Info+Prozess - Donau Soja](#)



Recognition of Donau Soja and Europe Soya by QS SojaPlus and pastus+

In order to ensure the full availability of sustainably certified soy on the European market, various Book & Claim (B&C) options will be recognized until 31 December 2025. This means that until this date, the soy used does not necessarily have to be physically certified, but can be offset through the claiming process.

Both DonauSoja and EuropeSoya meet the cultivation and supply chain criteria of QS-SoyaPlus and pastus+ and are recognized as a physical certification option by both schemes.

[QS - Pastus Recognition - Donau Soja](#)

[QS-Sojaplus-Anforderungen_31012024_DE_.pdf \(donausoja.org\)](#)

[Protein_Partnerschaft_fact_sheet.pdf \(donausoja.org\)](#)

ISCC (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification)

ISCC (International Sustainability & Carbon Certification) is the world's largest certification system for sustainability and greenhouse gas savings in the biomass, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and circular economy sectors. It is a globally recognized sustainability standard for the certification of a wide range of raw materials and products such as biofuels, food, feed and industrial products.

ISCC certification covers all the criteria of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). If an ISCC certification is available, the EUDR criteria with an add-on extension are a supplement to the existing certification. The add-on extension can be combined with either an ISCC EU or an ISCC PLUS certification.

[Regulation on Deforestation-free products \(EUDR\) – ISCC System \(iscc-system.org\)](#)

[Certification Process – ISCC System \(iscc-system.org\)](#)



The following is an overview of the certification obligations for the individual levels:

	Farmer	Storage	Trader
QS	No participation required	QS certification sufficient if not owner of the goods	Certification according to recognized supply chain model (e.g. ISCC, DonauSoja) or application of "Book & Claim"
pastus+	No participation required	pastus+ certification sufficient if not owner of the goods	Certification according to recognized supply chain model (e.g. ISCC, DonauSoja) or application of "Book & Claim"
Donau Soja / Europa Soja	Individual or group certifications possible. Sign self-commitment declaration with all relevant information for the due diligence declaration; data is then entered into the database	Storage facilities are co-certified by the first gathering point and randomly checked as part of the annual audit	Implementation of the due diligence process: Information collection, risk analysis, risk mitigation; Preparation of the due diligence declaration
ISCC	No participation required; Individual certification of the LW possible, own products can be sold as ISCC goods	Storage facilities are co-certified by the first gathering point and randomly checked as part of the annual audit	Certification according to ISCC EU or ISCC Plus Scope, trader or trader with warehouse.

Contact persons:

Pastus+ and QS

Herbert Pfabigan

☎ +43 (0) 2262/672214

📞 +43 (0) 664/4131454

✉ h.pfabigan@agrovet.at

DonauSoja/EuropeSoya – Processing companies

Brigitte Stoiber

☎ +43 (0) 2262/672213

📞 +43 (0) 664/8140943

✉ b.stoiber@agrovet.at

DonauSoja/EuropeSoya - Agriculture

Daniel Ivenz

☎ +43 (0) 2262/672214

📞 +43 (0) 664 88350819

✉ d.ivenz@agrovet.at

ISCC

Miro Banicevic

☎ +43 (0) 2262/672213

📞 +43 (0) 664/88350802

✉ m.banicevic@agrovet.at