

Cattle Certification & Compliance

EUDR Context

Field	Value
eudr_commodity	cattle
country_focus	Colombia
eudr_article9_field	compliance_statement
eudr_evidence_type	certification, self_declaration
deforestation_risk	HIGH
last_updated	2026-05-26

Overview

The EUDR does not recognize voluntary certification schemes as sufficient evidence of compliance — operators must conduct their own due diligence regardless of certifications held. However, certification systems provide structured frameworks, verified data, and audit trails that can significantly reduce the due diligence burden. For cattle, the certification landscape is less mature than for commodities like coffee or palm oil, creating both a gap and an opportunity for the development of cattle-specific deforestation-free standards.

Rainforest Alliance launched a cattle certification program, but after eight years it had achieved only minimal adoption — fewer than a dozen certified operations across Brazil and Colombia. The Sustainable Agriculture Network (SAN) standard has been applied to some cattle operations, and the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB) provides principles but not farm-level certification. The Leather Working Group certifies tanneries for environmental performance but does not address deforestation at the raw material level, creating a traceability gap in leather supply chains.

The EUDR is likely to catalyze development of more rigorous cattle certification standards that incorporate the regulation's specific requirements: establishment-level geolocation, deforestation-free verification for all farms in an animal's lifetime, and legality of production. Existing certification bodies will need to retrofit their cattle standards to meet these requirements, or new specialized cattle-EUDR certification services will emerge.

Colombian Context

Colombia's ICA administers the Buenas Practicas Ganaderas (BPG) certification — a quality and food safety assurance system for primary livestock production covering animal health, welfare, nutrition, environmental management, and worker safety. Between 2010 and 2013, Fedegan conducted 191 Field Schools promoting BPG across Regional Livestock Development Units. However, adoption remains uneven: many ranchers lack awareness of or interest in BPG certification, particularly in frontier regions where EUDR compliance will be most critical.

Agrolonja SAS achieved Colombia's first Rainforest Alliance cattle certification, demonstrating that sustainable ranching can deliver both environmental benefits and improved market access through premium pricing. However, scaling certification across Colombia's 620,000+ cattle farms — the vast majority of which are smallholder operations — requires dramatic expansion of technical assistance capacity, simplification of certification processes, and financial mechanisms to cover compliance costs for small producers.

Cleantech Taxonomy Nodes

Directly relevant: CT-EX-018 (Deforestation-free certification services — needs eudr_cattle=Y), CT-EX-021 (EUDR operator documentation services — needs eudr_cattle=Y), CT-EX-020 (Smallholder technical assistance for EUDR — needs eudr_cattle=Y). New extension needed: CT-EX-031 (Cattle-specific deforestation-free verification and certification) covering BPG-EUDR alignment tools, cattle-specific audit methodologies, leather supply chain certification, and multi-establishment verification protocols unique to cattle.

Revisión #1

Creado 2026-05-27 03:58:48 UTC por Gideon Blaauw

Actualizado 2026-05-27 03:58:48 UTC por Gideon Blaauw