Cattle EUDR Overview — Colombia

EUDR Context

Field	Value
eudr_commodity	cattle
country_focus	Colombia
eudr_article9_field	geolocation — establishment-level for each farm in animal lifetime
eudr_evidence_type	satellite_verification, primary_field_data
deforestation_risk	HIGH
last_updated	2026-05-26

Overview

Cattle is one of seven commodities regulated under the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR, Regulation 2023/1115), alongside coffee, cacao, palm oil, soy, wood, and rubber. The regulation covers a broad scope of cattle-derived products including beef, leather, tallow, and other processed goods. Operators placing these products on the EU market must demonstrate that the commodities were not produced on land subject to deforestation or forest degradation after 31 December 2020, and were produced in compliance with the laws of the country of production.

Under Article 9, cattle has a unique geolocation requirement: rather than requiring the perimeter of a production plot, the EUDR requires at least one latitude/longitude coordinate with six decimal digits for each establishment where the animal was kept during its lifetime. This reflects the reality that cattle move between farms, feedlots, and slaughterhouses during their production cycle — making cattle traceability fundamentally different from crop-based commodities like coffee or cacao.

The legally binding start date is 30 December 2026 for large and medium operators, and 30 June 2027 for micro and small operators. Country benchmarking will classify Colombia's cattle sector risk level, with strong likelihood of a HIGH risk designation given the well-documented deforestation-cattle nexus.

Colombian Context

Colombia holds the fourth-largest cattle herd in Latin America with over 29.5 million head (2024 ICA/Fedegan census) distributed across more than 620,000 farms. The cattle sector is a dominant economic force, particularly

in departments like Antioquia, Meta, Casanare, Caqueta, and Cordoba. The sector is responsible for an estimated 60-80% of national deforestation, driven by the phenomenon of praderizacion — the conversion of forest to pasture for extensive ranching and land speculation.

Colombia's beef and leather exports to the EU are modest but growing, and the EUDR will require Colombian operators to provide establishment-level geolocation data for all cattle movements, deforestation risk assessments for associated ranch lands, and compliance documentation meeting EU due diligence standards. The SINIGAN traceability system managed by Fedegan and ICA provides the institutional backbone, though significant gaps remain in farm-to-slaughterhouse tracking, especially for animals that pass through multiple establishments during their lifetime.

Cleantech Taxonomy Nodes

Primary relevant nodes: CT-AF-007 (Livestock and Fisheries — directly covers cattle technology), CT-EX-007 (Silvopastoral systems), CT-AF-002 (Forests and Woodlands — deforestation monitoring). EUDR compliance infrastructure nodes CT-EX-014 (Remote sensing), CT-EX-016 (Supply chain traceability), CT-EX-018 (Certification services), CT-EX-019 (Due diligence platforms), CT-EX-020 (Smallholder technical assistance), and CT-EX-021 (Operator documentation) all require eudr_cattle=Y flags. New extension rows needed for cattle-specific traceability via SINIGAN integration, pasture-to-forest restoration technology, cattle methane reduction, and landscape-level deforestation monitoring.

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