

8 July 2026

# European Commission publishes Forced Labour Single Portal and guidelines

As required by the EU Forced Labour Product Ban Regulation ([FLPBR](#)), the European Commission has now launched its [Forced Labour Single Portal](#) and [guidelines](#) to assist in the implementation of the FLPBR. In this client alert, we provide an overview of the FLPBR and key updates as well as explain its importance for businesses.

## **What is the FLPBR?**

The FLPBR prohibits economic operators from placing or making available on the EU market, or exporting from the EU market, any products made, in whole or in part, with forced labour. The Forced Labour Products Ban applies to all economic operators and all products (including components), regardless of their size, sector and origin. The ban applies if forced labour has been used in whole or in part at any stage of a product's extraction, harvest, production or manufacture, including working or processing related to a product at any stage of its supply chain. Importantly for the e-commerce industry, the Forced Labour Products Ban applies to online and other distance sales if the offer is targeted at end users in the EU i.e. an economic operator directs, by any means, its activities to an EU Member State. The FLPBR will apply from 14 December 2027.

Failure to comply with the FLPBR can result in loss of market access and penalties. When a violation is established, the lead competent authority (the EU Member States within their territory and the European Commission for violations occurring outside the EU) will usually order the withdrawal and disposal (e.g. recycling, donation or destruction) of the products (or parts) made through forced labour. Customs authorities in EU Member States will also carry out controls on products entering or leaving the EU with a view to enforce decisions which prohibit the placing or making available of products on the EU market and their export. In addition, non-compliance will result in the application of penalties according to the rules which will be established by EU Member States.

## **What is the Forced Labour Single Portal?**

The Forced Labour Single Portal is a website making available all relevant information regarding the FLPBR. Currently, the Forced Labour Single Portal contains European Commission guidelines, contact details of the competent authorities (see [here](#)) and other useful resources including a preparedness checklist, links to free online tools for supply chain traceability, and International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) resources (see [here](#)). The Forced Labour Single Portal also has links to register for webinars and training sessions that the European Commission is planning to hold starting from September 2026. However, the Forced Labour Single Portal still does not contain a single information submission point (which is an online channel where information about products or companies potentially linked to forced labour can be shared with the competent authorities) or a risk database (which will contain information on forced labour risks in specific geographic areas or with respect to specific products or product groups). The latter was legally due on 14 June 2026.

## **What are the key points in the new Guidelines?**

The guidelines is a 74-page document giving further details on the FLPBR. Although they are not legally binding, the European Commission guidelines are generally followed by EU Member State competent authorities and other economic operators.

Notably, the guidelines provide advice on voluntary due diligence. Building upon the OECD six-step due diligence framework, it sets out the following steps to take: (i) integrate due diligence into company policies and systems; (ii) identify and assess risks in operations and supply chains; (iii) prevent, mitigate and bring to an end forced labour risks; (iv) monitor and assess implementation and results; (v) communicate on how risks are addressed; and (vi) provide or cooperate in remediation. Also noteworthy are the lists of due diligence information that might be requested by competent authorities on actions to identify, prevent, mitigate, bring to an end or remediate risks of forced labour; on working conditions at the site of the alleged forced labour; and on the allegedly violating product (see sections 4.7.1 – 4.7.3 of the guidelines).

Another notable clarification regards the temporal scope of the FLPBR. In this respect, the guidelines clarify that even if the products or their components were placed on the market (e.g. through being produced in the EU or imported), before 14 December 2027, the FLPBR would still apply if the products are still being made available on the market after that date (e.g. products that are on the shelves or in warehouses). Only withdrawal of products that have already reached the end user are exempt from the scope of the FLPBR. Moreover, the guidelines also include important clarifications regarding the evidentiary burden when determining if there has been a violation, competent authorities' approach to non-cooperation and how EU Member States could calculate penalties.

## **What are the main implications for businesses?**

The clarification brought by the guidelines that the FLPBR will still apply to products that are on the shelves or in warehouses from 14 December 2027 highlights the importance that businesses do not delay their preparation for compliance with the FLPBR. In this respect, the Forced Labour Single Portal and new Guidelines provide a useful starting point for businesses in their compliance efforts. The international guidance, e.g. from the ILO and OECD, linked on the Forced Labour Single Portal are also useful complementary tools.

Once the EU forced labour risk database is available, this should help companies in identifying and prioritising risks. However, companies can already identify and prioritise forced labour risks in their operations and supply chains through other means e.g. through information from international institutions, such as the ILO and the UN, and research or academic institutions (these are sources that the European Commission will itself consider when compiling the risk database). Similarly, businesses can already take other steps recommended in the guidelines such as integrating forced labour due diligence into company policies, revising supplier contracts and codes of conduct, and establishing a grievance mechanism.

# Key contacts



**Joanna Redelbach**  
Counsel  
jredelbach@vbb.com



**Sophie Sundaram**  
Associate  
ssundaram@vbb.com

---

## Brussels

Glaverbel Building  
Chaussée de La Hulpe 166  
B-1170 Brussels  
Belgium

+32 (0)2 647 73 50

## Geneva

2 Chemin des Mines  
CH-1202  
Geneva  
Switzerland

+41 (0)22 320 90 20

## London

Holborn Gate  
330 High Holborn  
London, WC1V 7QH  
United Kingdom

+44 (0)20 7406 1471



[www.vbb.com](http://www.vbb.com)

Van Bael & Bellis (VBB) means Van Bael & Bellis SRL / BV and/or affiliated undertakings. Van Bael & Bellis SRL / BV is a private limited company registered in Belgium with registered number 0428.460.282. It is a law firm partnership. All its partners and other lawyers are either members of the Brussels Bar or are members of foreign (non-Brussels) bars. Van Bael & Bellis (London) LLP is a limited liability partnership registered in England and Wales with registered number OC431476. It is a law firm authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. A list of the names of the members of Van Bael & Bellis (London) LLP and their professional qualifications is open to inspection at its registered office, Holborn Gate, 330 High Holborn, WC1V 7QH and such persons are either solicitors or registered European lawyers. This communication is for general information purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice. Please get in touch if you have any questions on any issues raised in it. Links to third party websites in this communication are not monitored or maintained by VBB. VBB does not endorse, verify or warrant the accuracy of the information in these websites and accepts no liability for any damage or loss you may suffer in connection with accessing them or using third party products or services.