

First steps towards traceability

European and Japanese buyers increasingly ask where products come from and how they were made. The EU Deforestation Regulation and the EU carbon border rules are examples. Much of the preparation is simple, good housekeeping.

01 Know your products and markets

List which products go to which buyers and countries, and which rules may apply.

02 Record where raw materials come from

Supplier, farm or plot location, dates and quantities.

03 Keep documents together

Contracts, invoices, certificates and land documents, stored in one place and easy to find.

04 Measure energy use

Monthly electricity and fuel use per site; it is also a quick way to find savings.

05 Help your suppliers

Explain what you need from them and support them in keeping simple records.

06 Ask your buyers early

Ask customers exactly what information they will need, and in what form.

07 Start with one product

Test the approach on one product line before extending it.

08 Check the rules regularly

European rules are still being adjusted; check dates and details with official sources.

Every product and every market has its own requirements, and this guide gives general direction only. Check the current rules with official sources and qualified advisers. If you would like help getting started, you know where to find us.