

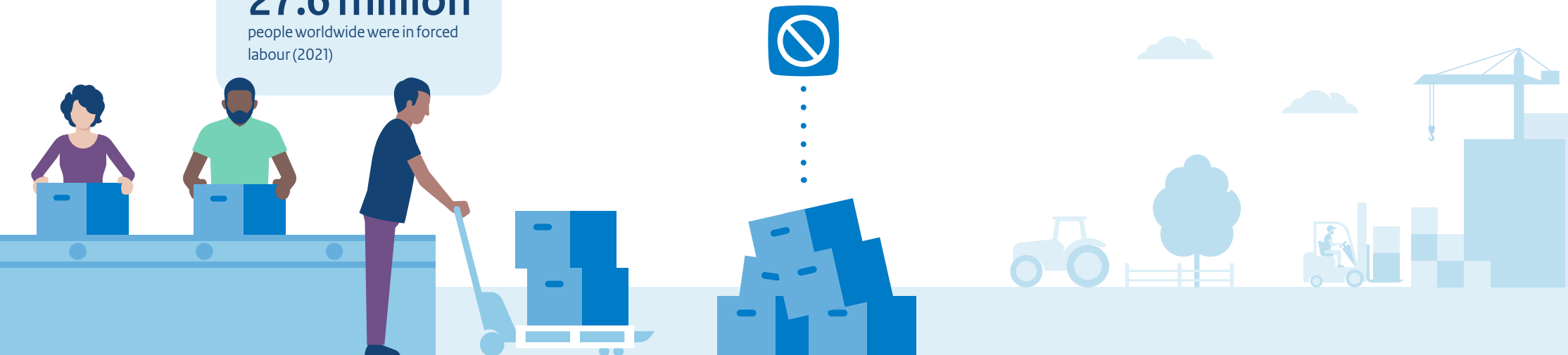


European ban on products made with forced labour

Forced labour is still widely used around the world. To combat this, products made using forced labour may no longer be placed on the European Union market or exported from the European Union as of **14 December 2027**. This ban is laid down in the European Forced Labour Regulation (FLR). Find out what this new legislation means for your business.

27.6 million

people worldwide were in forced labour (2021)



What is forced labour?

Forced labour is all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily, the legislation adds forced child labour to this.

What is the Forced Labour Regulation (FLR)?

This European law prohibits businesses from placing products made with forced labour on the EU market or exporting them from the EU.

Who does the FLR apply to?

The FLR applies to all businesses, sectors and products, regardless of where the products are made. It does not apply to services.

How does the FLR work?

● Investigating possible forced labour

The competent authorities are responsible for investigating possible forced labour:

- outside the EU, the competent authority is the European Commission;
- within the EU, each member state will designate a competent authority.

● Decision by the competent authority

If the competent authority establishes that forced labour is being used, it adopts a decision. That decision includes a ban on placing specific products made with forced labour on the EU market or exporting them, as well as an order to withdraw these products from the market and remove them. Customs, together with the supervisory authorities, plays a role in enforcing these decisions.

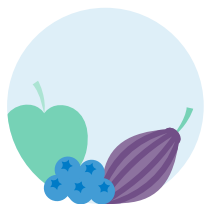


● Review of the decision

The business in question may request a review of the decision. Such a request must contain new information showing that the products in question are no longer made using forced labour. Based on this information, the competent authority may withdraw the decision.

i To find out more about how the FLR works and is enforced, [consult the flowchart.](#)

Examples of sectors where forced labour may occur globally:



Agriculture



Construction



Textile



Toys

How to prepare

- ✓ Follow the [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct.](#)
- ✓ Read the European Commission's guidelines, which will be published on the Commission's Forced Labour Single Portal on 14 June 2026. Among other things, these guidelines will outline how businesses can address forced labour in their supply chains. The guidelines, along with much other relevant information on forced labour, will be available on the Forced Labour Single Portal.
- ✓ Use the [Corporate Social Responsibility \(CSR\) Risk Check Tool](#), the report [Assessing Forced Labour Risks in Dutch Imports](#) and the European Commission's forthcoming database to assess the risk of forced labour in your sector.
- ✓ Collaborate with other businesses in your sector, for instance through the [Sectoral Partnerships grant scheme](#), to identify the areas of the supply chain where there is a risk of forced labour and address these weak points together.

For advice contact the Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) helpdesk

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