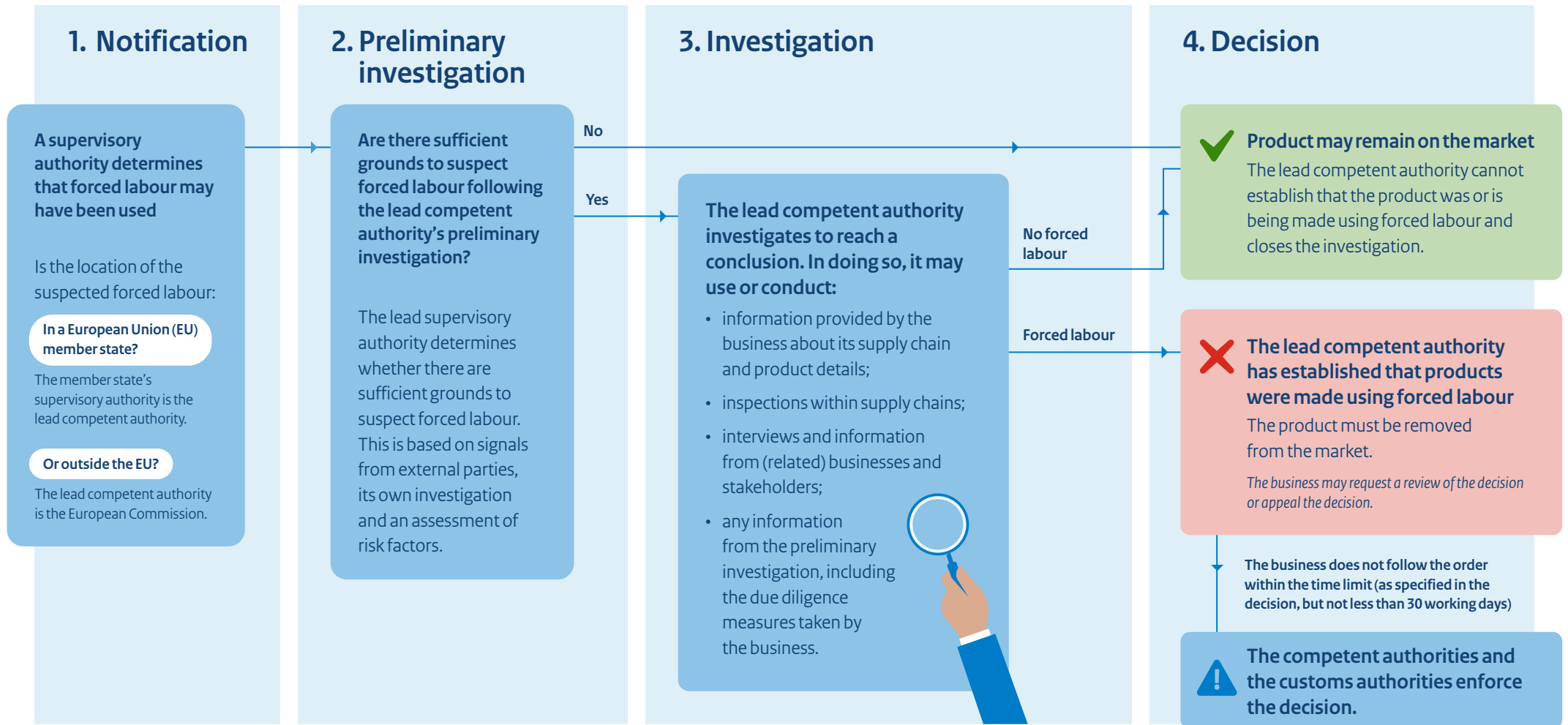




How does the European Forced Labour Regulation (FLR) work?

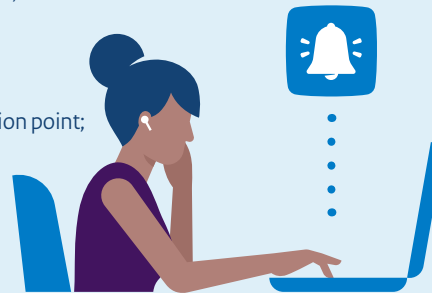


Further details

1. Notification

To determine if forced labour may be taking place, competent authorities may consult any relevant information, including:

1. Information and previous decisions on violations of the FLR. This information can be found in the information and communication system used by the EU authorities. This system is responsible for detecting forced labour and by the customs authorities;
2. Information from the database on high-risk areas and products;
3. Forced labour risk indicators and ways of identifying forced labour;
4. Notifications made to the European Commission's single information submission point;
5. Information provided by other authorities;
6. Information arising from consultations with stakeholders, such as civil society organisations and trade unions.



2. Preliminary investigation

- The lead competent authority can ask the business to explain how it reduces the risk of forced labour. The business must respond within 30 working days. The lead competent authority may also request information from other parties involved. Within 30 working days, the lead competent authority then determines if there is a confirmed concern that the products were made using forced labour.
- The lead competent authority may refrain from requesting information if this would jeopardise the investigation. In such a case, it may conclude based on other available information that there is a confirmed concern that the products were made using forced labour.

3. Investigation

When requesting information, the lead competent authority focuses as much as possible on the companies that are closest to the place where forced labour may be occurring. In doing so, the lead competent authority also looks at:

- The size and economic resources of those businesses, especially whether they are SMEs;
- The quantity and volume of products concerned;
- The complexity of the supply chain;
- The severity of the suspected forced labour.

4. Decision

If the lead competent authority establishes that products were made using forced labour, it adopts a decision containing:

- A ban on placing the products on the EU market or exporting them from the EU;
- An order to have these products withdrawn from the market and disposed of.

Businesses have 30 working days to comply with the decision (or 10 working days in the case of perishable goods, animals and plants).

Requesting a review

A business may request a review of the decision. This request must contain new information showing that the products in question are no longer made using forced labour.

A business may also object to a decision.

If a business does not comply with a decision within the set time limit set, the competent authorities and the customs authorities will enforce the decision. They ensure that the prohibition on trading the products is upheld, and where necessary, take products off the market or ensure their removal.