



Recognition Agreement Framework supporting the EUDR
Collaboration between 2BS and sectoral initiatives

Version: 0 (EN)
Approved on: 13/06/2025

**Recognition Agreement Framework Supporting
REGULATION (EU) 2023/1115 (EUDR)**

*on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain
commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and
repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010*

Note on the status of this document:

This reference document is an integral part of the 2BS voluntary scheme developed by the 2BS Association.

This document presents the collaboration framework between 2BS and sectoral initiatives to support compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). Through recognition agreements, 2BS partners with initiatives and tools that contribute to the effective implementation of the EUDR, which enters into force on December 30, 2025.



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Traceability of the changes of this document

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The VISEC initiative: Platform for the Sectoral Vision of the Gran Chaco (deforestation- free soybean)



1. Introduction and scope:

The Platform for the Sectoral Vision of the Gran Chaco (VISEC) is a multi-stakeholder sectoral initiative focused on reducing environmental impacts from soy production on the whole value chain and supporting compliance with the EUDR. To this end, VISEC has developed a comprehensive protocol.

The following recognition framework applies to soy commodities and soy-derived products certified under 2BSvs or 2BSXtra certification schemes that are subject to the EUDR requirements. Eligible operators to the VISEC SLD Protocol include soybean or soybean by-products exporters, intermediate gatherers, brokers, producers, and other actors handling grains, meals, oils and soybean derivatives, operating in Argentina's Gran Chaco region. The operators must be committed to fully comply with the requirements of the VISEC Protocol.

2. Detailed explanation of the VISEC initiative:

The protocol is built on Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) principles established by the Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi). VISEC enables soybean traceability along the entire value chain produced in Argentine Republic, down to production units, ensuring that:

- It does not come from deforested areas based on the cut-off date established in the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 (December 31, 2020)
- It complies with Argentine Law 26.331/07 on Territorial Management of Native Forest Land Management and its application at provincial level regarding the non-deforestation, prohibiting deforestation in protected areas (Categories I & II) and regulating land-use changes in Category III forests (approval of change of land use by competent enforcement authority).



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All actors in the supply chain participating in the VISEC program must:

1. Register in the VISEC MRV System program as operators.
2. Obtain training certificates (at least one person from the plant/branch must pass a self-assessment exam via Buenos Aires Agronomy Faculty's Distance Learning Center.)
3. Provide the product traceability procedures and documentation to the chosen Verification Body ([VB]: the term used in the VISEC protocol to refer to Certification Bodies, known as [CB]s under 2BS): it will validate these documents. Indeed, traceability, linking product movement records to each batch, is mandatory.
4. Undergo on site/remote monitoring audits on an annual basis (surveillance audits in the 2BS framework).

Different audit types through VISEC:

- *Qualifying Audit*: First-year compliance check which determines compliance with VISEC guidelines (equivalent to 2BS initial audit)
- *Follow-up Audit* (subsequent years): Ensures continued compliance (on-site or remote) (Known as a surveillance audit under 2BS)
- *Ports/ shipment specific Audit*: audits performed on all ports of shipment, and single instance audits on shipments detailed as per section 9.3 of the VISEC Protocol (specific to the VISEC Protocol)

3. **Recognition and Equivalence framework between 2BS and VISEC**

2BS recognizes VISEC as an initiative assuring compliance with the EUDR requirements. VISEC, in turn, acknowledges the robustness of the 2BS certification system. **This mutual recognition establishes an equivalence framework** allowing 2BS-certified operators to benefit from audit simplifications under the VISEC protocol. VISEC also maintains equivalence with other similar certification schemes (See VISEC Protocol - section 7.2.2.1).

3.1 Initial audit advantages for 2BS operators accepted within VISEC

Simplified qualifying audit process: Any 2BS operator seeking to qualify a site (first gathering points, processing units or traders) under the VISEC protocol **can avoid undergoing a full on-site qualifying audit**, significantly simplifying the process.

By presenting evidence of a valid 2BS certificate, these operators:

- Are exempt from duplicative internal management checks, since these are already verified under 2BSvs and 2BSXtra certifications;
- Submit the relevant aligned VISEC documentation remotely - much of which overlaps with what is already used for the 2BS audits;
- Reduce audit costs and time.

VISEC Certification or Verification Bodies will determine any additional requirements beyond compliance with the 2BS voluntary scheme.

After passing the initial audit, the entity receives a certificate of “facility compliance”.



Both 2BS and VISEC conduct annual audits to ensure compliance with their respective systems. The site authorization remains valid for 365 calendar days, calculated from the confirmation of equivalence.

3.2 Surveillance audits and dual audits advantages for 2BS operators accepted within VISEC

Simplified audit process and time savings of the follow-up/ surveillance audit: Follow-up/surveillance audits, either remote or in-person, are required annually. 2BS surveillance audits are always conducted on-site, while VISEC audits can be done remotely. After two consecutive remote follow-up audits, a third-year on-site audit is mandatory. Follow-up audits are conducted annually on all intermediate storage facilities after the qualification audit.

Dual audit efficiency option: Operators certified under 2BS have the option and are recommended to request a dual 2BS/VISEC audit conducted by a certification body recognised by both 2BS and VISEC. Indeed, dual audits are recommended to streamline the process and minimize administrative burdens. In the case of a dual audit, the VISEC audit will be shorter, as the initial audit. The audits are conducted by the same auditor, also ensuring efficiency. Authorization for conducting dual audits applies only to sites with a valid 2BS certificate.

During the follow-up audit, specific equivalence requirements for EUDR compliance are assessed according to section 7.2.1 of the VISEC protocol SLD:

1. Respect of the cut-off date previously mentioned.
2. Compliance with relevant national legislation.
3. A management procedure ensuring physical segregation.

Both 2BS and VISEC are responsible for maintaining traceability in the supply chain. The management of minor, major and critical non-conformities differs between 2BS and VISEC.

The outcome of the audit determines whether the entity maintains its compliant status or is deemed non-compliant to operate under the VISEC Protocol guidelines

3.3 Certificate and claims

Newly audited sites receive a Certificate of Conformity or Deforestation Free Product Certificate (DFC), as proof of compliance with VISEC requirements.

- **The VISEC certificate is valid for 12 months** (compared to 5 years for the 2BS certificate) and require annual follow-up audits. VISEC does not issue certificates directly; they are issued by VBs, just as CBs issue them under the 2BS scheme. The certificate model for authorised production is available on VISEC's website.
- The facility is also granted access to the Compliance Database where its Product Transfer Documents are stored.
- All operators must undergo a conformity audit and must be approved before any claim will be accepted., allowing them to supply soybeans with the claim of compliance by VISEC.
- VISEC maintains a public list of compliant sites. Certificates will be valid as long as they are published in the VISEC MRV System as established in point 10.2 of the protocol. VISEC's Compliance Database prevents the double counting of products.



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3.4 Exclusions from the equivalence agreement framework

- VISEC certification of an entity does not imply that the entity is certified under 2BSvs/2BSXtra.
- If a 2BSvs or 2BSXtra certificate is suspended, withdrawn, terminated, or expired for reasons unrelated to VISEC, the VISEC certificate will also be invalidated. However, the reverse does not apply; meaning that if the VISEC certificate is terminated, the 2BSvs certificate remains valid.
- Certificates will be rendered void if they are falsified, contain incorrect information, or were issued by a Verification Body that is not recognized by VISEC at the time of issuance

4. Conclusion

This mutual recognition framework aligns the 2BS and VISEC systems to support efficient, verifiable, and transparent compliance with the EUDR. VISEC is recognised by 2BS as a highly effective tool for meeting EUDR requirements.

By enabling dual auditing and simplifying audit procedures, it reduces redundancy while maintaining high standards of traceability and verification for both schemes. Verified operators may claim compliance through the DFCs issued by recognized Verification Bodies.