



Summary Review of Global Legislation on Labour, Human Rights, and Environmental Compliance Applicable for the UK Context

Transparentem and Rights Lab 2024¹

Mainstreaming climate change and modern slavery within the policy space for the UK has lessons that can be learned from the good practice and leadership from other country's approaches (MSPEC 2023). Understanding the scope of current climate and environmental policies, approaches to labour conditions (including forced labour and modern slavery), and emerging combined legislative opportunities can be valuable for the implementation of combined action within the UK (full report by Jackson et al. 2024).

There are some global mechanisms that have been established including the *UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights* (UN OHCHR 2011) outlining how human rights should be engaged with in relation to supply chains. Other multi-lateral organizations such as the OECD (2018) have also worked to focus on responsible business practices through due diligence frameworks.

Three dominant types of legislative approaches were identified as being potentially relevant to the UK context for the development of combined modern slavery and climate change policy which align with commonly identified practices (e.g., Walk Free 2023). These include: 1) disclosure and transparency regulations; 2) mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence frameworks and legislation; and 3) the use of import bans.

Multiple forms of legislation were identified (found below). These covered topics of labour rights, environmental protection, modern slavery and human trafficking, as well as combined responses. The compiled legislation was assembled through the identification of policies most likely to be useful in the context of understanding climate change and modern slavery in conjunction. Much of the legislation thus built upon previous assessments covering varied legislative assessments (e.g., Anti-Slavery International 2021; Pietropaoli et al. 2021; Johnstone and Hesketh 2022).

Of the legislation identified,² those in place in both Europe and the US demonstrated the most promising opportunities to provide similar improvements to the UK in addressing modern slavery and climate change through combined policy action.

The findings from this analysis assisted in the recommendation for legislative change.³ This included the adoption of legislation like the *EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)*, focusing on the UK and the import of goods and operation of companies linked to the combined response to both modern slavery and climate change. Proposed alternatives in the UK such as the *UK Business, Human Rights and Environment Act* (Anti-Slavery International 2022) could be adopted for the legislative landscape in the UK, with similar improvements to present legislation such as the UK's *Climate Change Act* and the *Modern Slavery Act* linking more to one another through potential amendments.⁴ Thus

¹ Suggested citation: Jackson, B., Di Preta, A., Tucker, M., Bengtsen, P., Weir, E., Alexander, M., and Mead, J. (2024). *Review of Global Legislation on Labour and Environmental Compliance Applicable for the UK Context*. Rights Lab, University of Nottingham and Transparentem, US.

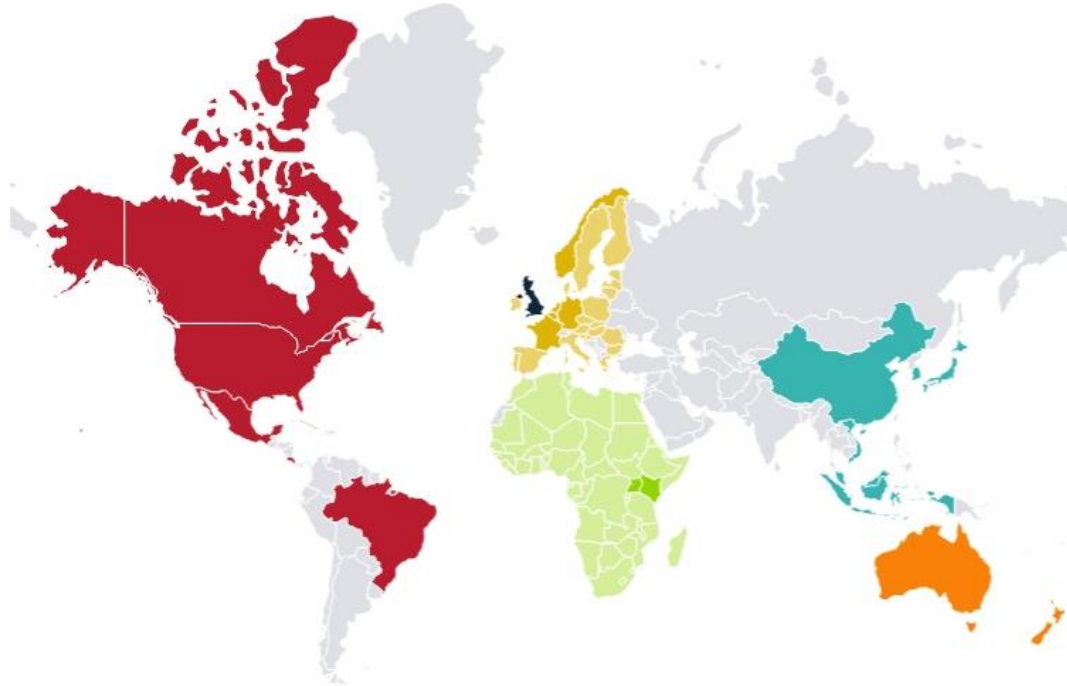
² See methods for the selection and inclusion criteria, as this is a non-exhaustive list.

³ A summary of all recommendations can be found at <https://modernslaverypec.org/assets/downloads/Integrating-Policies-Research-Summary.pdf>

⁴ Findings from a review of UK legislation is available in Section 3 of [Jackson et al. \(2024\)](#).



lessons can be learned not only from international legislation, but also the work that is being undertaken domestically in the UK (more information is available in the [full report](#)).



Summary of the geographic coverage of the international legislation reviewed to identify learnings to strengthen the mainstreaming of combined policy action on modern slavery and climate change in the UK and devolved administrations. Those highlighted are covered through individual country-level legislation, or as part of a membership to a multi-lateral body (represented through the lighter colours, e.g., the European Union). From Jackson et al. (2024).

Methods Summary

Transparentem used desk research to conduct an initial screening of legislative databases, media, and NGO and academic resources to:

1. Identify legislative categories most relevant to the nexus of modern slavery and climate change, landing on the three following categories:
 - a. disclosure and transparency regulations
 - b. mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence
 - c. import bans.
2. Identify geographies with significant legislation within these categories.

Transparentem then conducted a deeper search into the national legislation databases of relevant countries for legislation that met the categories we established and:

- Explicitly mention both environmental and human rights measures, OR
- Implicitly, in application, could cover environmental and human rights issues, OR
- Focus singularly on either human rights or environmental issues but provide a recognized leading practice that could potentially influence UK policy development at the nexus of human rights and the environment.

This deeper search culminated in the legislation that Transparentem analysed and organized into the table by region and legislative category.

Region	Countries	Legislation	Status	Key Issue Areas	Legislation Summary	Scope	Full Text
<i>Disclosure & Transparency Regulations</i>							
Europe	European Union	EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive	Entered into force in 2023	Human rights, Environment	The Directive requires relevant companies to include in their management report a non-financial statement covering the company's impacts on sustainability matters and information on how sustainability matters affect the company's development, performance and positions. "Sustainability matters" encompass environmental, social and human rights, as well as governance factors.	<p>The reporting requirements apply to each of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU companies that meet at least two of the following three criteria (a "large undertaking"): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -An average of at least 250 employees annually; -At least €40 million annual net turnover; and/or -A balance sheet of at least €20 million. Non-EU companies that meet the following two criteria (a "Third-Country Company"): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Over €150 million in EU annual turnover for the trailing two financial years; and -At least one subsidiary that is a large undertaking (or listed entity that is not a micro undertaking) or EU branch that generated net turnover of more than €40 million in the prior financial year. • Companies with securities listed on an EU regulated market, including small- and medium-sized enterprises ("SMEs"). • Captive insurance and reinsurance undertakings as well as small and non-complex institutions provided that they are also large-, medium- or small-sized enterprises. 	Full Text
	European Union	The Ecodesign Directive for Sustainable Products (ESPR)	Not yet in force; provisional agreement reached in late-2023	Environment	<p>The ESPR will replace the existing Ecodesign Directive. While the Ecodesign Directive regulated 29 product categories with primarily energy-focused criteria, the new ESPR aims to cover the broadest possible range of products with more comprehensive ecodesign criteria that promote sustainability through greater durability, reusability, and circularity.</p> <p>The ESPR will introduce a Digital Product Passport (DPP) for regulated products. The DPP is a data carrier that can take the form of a QR code, RFID tag, or other scannable technologies. The DPP will carry information about the specific product's sustainability including a description of materials and their recycled content used in production, and supply chain mapping. Additionally, the ESPR will mandate companies to prevent the destruction of unsold textile and footwear products and disclose unsold product disposal data.</p>	The ESPR will apply to all products on the EU market, including intermediate products, such as steel and aluminium, with only a few sectors exempt. These include food, feed, living organisms, military equipment, certain motor vehicles and medical products. Each regulated product group in the Ecodesign Directive will have its own implementing act. This is a piece of law that makes the Ecodesign criteria mandatory.	Full Text
Oceania	Australia	Australia Modern Slavery Act	Entered into force 2019	Forced labour/modern slavery	The Act establishes a modern slavery reporting requirement to require certain large businesses and other entities in Australia to make annual public reports (Modern Slavery Statements) on their actions to address modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains. The Act includes mandatory reporting criteria and requires reporting entities to provide information about their structure, operations and supply chains; potential modern slavery risks; actions taken to assess and address these risks; and an assessment of the effectiveness of their actions.	<p>The Act applies to business entities (including not-for-profits and universities) based, or operating, in Australia, with an annual consolidated revenue of at least \$100 million AUD.</p> <p>The Act also requires the Australian Government to publish an annual Modern Slavery Statement covering Commonwealth procurement and investment activities.</p>	Full Text
	New Zealand	New Zealand Modern Slavery Act	Not yet in force; proposed 2023	Forced labour/modern slavery	The proposed Act will establish a modern slavery reporting requirement for companies of a certain size operating within New Zealand, and require them to make annual public reports (Modern Slavery Statements) on their actions to address modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains. The proposals contain the establishment of a public register for transparency of reporting and a series of penalties for non-compliance (including for failing to submit a statement, or providing false details).	The proposed Act will apply to business entities based, or operating, in New Zealand, with an annual consolidated revenue of \$20 million NZD. This will apply to public and private sector entities, including charitable and faith-based organizations.	Details



Americas	United States	The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act	Entered into force 2012	Forced labour/modern slavery	The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act obliges companies to disclose the extent to which they conduct due diligence with respect to human trafficking and slavery in their supply chains. It requires companies to disclose information regarding: verification, audits, certification, internal accountability, and training.	The Act applies to companies that meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail Sellers or Manufacturers • Doing Business in the State of California • With Annual Worldwide Gross Receipts in Excess of \$100,000,000. 	Full Text
	United States	H.R.3075 – Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act	Not yet in force; proposed 2021	IUU fishing, forced labour/modern slavery	The Act was introduced to address seafood slavery and combat illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing. The Act would enhance traceability and transparency in seafood supply chains, and strengthen enforcement against IUU fishing and associated labour abuses.	Government agencies and American companies.	Full Text
	Brazil	BCB Resolution No. 139/2021	Entered into force 2022	Human Rights, Environmental Sustainability	The Resolution mandates in-scope financial institutions publish an annual public disclosure on social, environmental, and climate risk management titled the Report on Social, Environmental, and Climate-related Risks and Opportunities (GRSAC Report).	Financial institutions and other institutions licensed by the Central Bank of Brazil allocated to Segment 1 (S1), Segment 2 (S2), Segment 3 (S3) and Segment 4 (S4), as defined in Resolution CMN n° 4,553 of January 30, 2017, must publish the GRSAC Report.	Full Text
	United States	Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform & Consumer Protection Act	Entered into force 2012	Mining/human rights	Section 1502 specifically deals with specific minerals designated as "conflict minerals" – i.e. tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold. The law requires persons to disclose whether any conflict minerals "necessary to the functionality or production of a product" originated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or an adjoining country, which includes Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. If originating from this area, such persons must provide a Conflict Minerals Report – audited by an independent private auditor – describing due diligence measures taken (e.g., facilities used to produce the conflict minerals, country of origin, and chain of custody of said minerals).	The Dodd-Frank Act Section 1502 is applicable to all Securities and Exchange Commission "issuers" (including foreign issuers) that manufacture or contract to manufacture products where conflict minerals are necessary to the "functionality or production" of the product.	Full Text
	United States	Climate Risk Disclosure Act of 2021	Entered into force 2021	Greenhouse-gas emissions	The Act requires the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to issue rules, within two years, on climate risk reporting for all public companies; US companies will need to disclose information about their exposure to climate-related risks in their annual (10K) reports. They will also need to detail their strategies to mitigate these risks. The Act also has a "backstop" in that if the SEC has not issued regulations within the two-year period, regulated entities would be deemed to comply with the Act if their annual reports satisfy the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).	The Climate Risk Disclosure Act applies to all US regulated (public) companies.	Full Text
	United States	Federal Supplier Climate Risks and Resilience Rule	Not yet in force; proposed 2022	Greenhouse-gas emissions	The proposed Federal Supplier Climate Risks and Resilience Rule would amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation and provide a targeted, risk-based approach by focusing primarily on major Federal suppliers. Under the proposed rule, the largest suppliers including Federal contractors receiving more than \$50 million in annual contracts would be required to publicly disclose Scope 1, Scope 2, and relevant categories of Scope 3 emissions, disclose climate-related financial risks, and set science-based emissions reduction targets.	Federal contractors with more than \$7.5 million but less than \$50 million in annual contracts would be required to report Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. All Federal contractors with less than \$7.5 million in annual contracts would be exempt from the rule. Small businesses with over \$7.5 million in annual contracts would only be required to report Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions under the proposed rule.	Full Text
	United States	California Corporate Data Accountability Act	Entered into force 2023	Greenhouse-gas emissions	The Act requires reporting entities to disclose their Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 GHG emissions to California on an annual basis and obtain third-party assurance of its disclosures. California will publish GHG emissions data on a digital platform featuring individual reporting entity disclosures. This platform will allow consumers, investors, and other stakeholders to view aggregated data.	Partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, or other business entities formed under the laws of California or any other U.S. state or the District of Columbia or under an act of the U.S. Congress with total annual revenues exceeding \$1 billion and doing business in California.	Full Text



Americas	United States	California Climate-Related Financial Risk Act	Entered into force 2023	Climate Change, Finance	The Act requires covered entities to prepare and submit climate-related financial risk reports to California Air Resources Board (CARB) every other year. The report must disclose the entity's climate-related financial risks, as aligned with TCFD recommendations, and measures adopted by the entity to reduce and adapt to climate-related financial risks. Entities will be required to make their risk reports available to the public on their corporate websites.	Partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies or other business entities formed under the laws of California or any other U.S. state or the District of Columbia or under an act of the U.S. Congress with total annual revenues exceeding \$500 million and doing business in California.	Full Text
	United States	New York climate-related financial risk and required disclosures	Not yet in force; proposed 2023	Climate Change, Finance	The Act would require covered entities to prepare and submit climate-related financial risk reports to state authorities every year. The report must disclose the entity's climate-related financial risks, as aligned with TCFD recommendations, and measures adopted by the entity to reduce and adapt to climate-related financial risks. Entities will be required to make their risk reports available to the public on their corporate websites.	Corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other business entity formed under the laws of New York, the laws of any other state of the United States or the District of Columbia, or under an act of the Congress of the United States with total annual revenues in excess of \$500 million and that does business in New York.	Full Text
	United States	New York Climate Corporate Accountability Act	Not yet in force; proposed 2023	Greenhouse-gas emissions	This Act would require reporting entities in New York to annually disclose Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 GHG emissions. Reporting entities disclosures would be required to be independently verified by the emissions registry or a third-party auditor approved by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, with expertise in GHG emissions accounting. The emissions registry would be operated by the Department of Environmental Conservation or a non-profit emissions registry organisation contracted by the Department. The emissions registry would be required to develop a reporting and registry program to receive and make publicly available disclosures from reporting entities.	Business entity with total revenues in excess of \$1 billion in the preceding calendar year, including revenues received by all the business entity's subsidiaries that do business in New York.	Full Text
	United States	New York Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act	Not yet in force; proposed 2021	Environmental Justice, Human Rights	The Act seeks to require fashion retailers to map their supply chains, disclose environmental and social due diligence policies, disclose the environmental and social impact of their activities, and set targets to improve those impacts. The Act also establishes a community benefit fund for the purpose of implementing one or more environmental benefit projects that directly and verifiably benefit environmental justice communities.	All fashion companies that do business (sell their products) in New York and generate more than \$100 million in revenue.	Full Text
Africa	African Union	Resolution on Business and Human Rights in Africa	Adopted resolution in March 2023	Human rights, Business compliance	The resolution is designed to function as a roadmap towards the regulation of business impacts on human rights and encourage the implementation of the global UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs) for businesses across the continent.	African Union Member States	Full Text
	Uganda	The National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights	Adopted in 2021 and will run until 2026	Human rights, Labour rights, Environment, Business compliance	The NAP has been developed to promote respect for human rights within business operations; thus preventing human rights abuses and violations. There are several ways this is promoted: "1. To strengthen institutional capacity, operations and coordination efforts of state and non-state actors for the protection and promotion of human rights in businesses; 2. To promote human rights compliance and accountability by business actors; 3. To promote social inclusion and rights of the vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups in business operations; 4. To promote meaningful and effective participation and respect for consent by relevant stakeholders in business operations; and 5. To enhance access to remedy to victims of business-related human rights abuses and violations in business operations."	All businesses and state-owned enterprises operating within Uganda	Full Text

Region	Countries	Legislation	Status	Key Issue Areas	Legislation Summary	Scope	Full Text
Africa	Kenya	National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights	Cabinet adopted in April 2021	Human rights, Labour rights, Environment, Business compliance	<p>The NAP is the domestic implementation of the UNGPs and includes several core thematic areas including labour rights, business transparency and environment protections and resource access.</p> <p>Section 2.5 focuses on environmental protections particularly in manufacturing and extractive industries. This correlates with the 2016 Climate Change Act that was introduced and the need for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) to be introduced into decision making. Environmental risks covered include pollution (all forms) and biodiversity loss due to poor business practices.</p> <p>Section 2.6 on labour rights reaffirms Article 41 of the constitution, guaranteeing the right to fair labour practices, and makes links to several domestic employment and health regulations to be enforced.</p>	All businesses and state-owned enterprises operating within Kenya	Full Text
Asia	Japan	Guidelines on Respecting Human Rights in Responsible Supply Chains	Published 2022	Human rights	<p>The Guidelines recommend that Japanese companies establish a human rights policy; conduct human rights due diligence; and establish a grievance mechanism to enable individuals to report concerns and seek remedies for adverse corporate impacts. The Guidelines recommend that companies disclose information on addressing adverse human-rights impacts on an annual basis. Importantly, "the guidelines are not legally binding" and thus, there is no mandate for companies to conduct the human rights due diligence recommended in the Guidelines. The Guidelines are associated with Japan's 2020-2025 National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and adapt the United Nations Guiding Principles into Japan's domestic legal framework.</p>	The Guidelines apply to all businesses, including sole proprietors, engaging in business activities in Japan (1.3).	Full Text
<i>Mandatory Human Rights & Environmental Due Diligence</i>							
Europe	Germany	Due Diligence in the Supply Chain Act	Entered into force 2023	Human rights, environment	<p>The law obliges companies to fulfil due diligence obligations in their supply chains as they relate to respecting internationally recognized human rights and certain environmental standards. It requires companies to regularly and systematically identify and address human rights and environmental risks within their direct supply chains. Companies must also annually publish a report outlining the steps they have taken to identify and avert human rights risks.</p>	The law applies to large companies based in Germany (including foreign companies with a German office) with more than 3000 employees. From 2024 onward, this figure changes to more than 1000 employees.	Full Text
	France	Duty of Vigilance Law	Entered into force 2017	Human rights, environment	<p>The French corporate duty of vigilance law establishes a legally binding obligation for parent companies to identify and prevent adverse human rights and environmental impacts resulting from their own activities, from activities of companies they control, and from activities of their subcontractors and suppliers with whom they have an established commercial relationship. The law requires French companies to establish, publish, and effectively implement adapted measures to identify risks and prevent severe abuses to human rights, fundamental freedoms, the health and safety of individuals, and the environment.</p>	<p>The law covers any company established in France that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at the end of two consecutive financial years employs at least five thousand employees within the company head office and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, whose head office is located on French territory; OR • employs at least ten thousand employees within the company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries, whose head office is located on French territory or abroad. 	Full Text
	Norway	Transparency Act	Entered into force 2022	Human rights	<p>The Act aims to promote respect for fundamental human rights and decent working conditions in connection with the production of goods and the provision of services and to ensure public access to information regarding how businesses address adverse impacts. Subject enterprises shall carry out due diligence in accordance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and publish an account of their due diligence.</p>	<p>The following enterprises are subject to the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large enterprises domiciled in Norway, irrespective of where they provide goods and services. • Large foreign enterprises that offer goods and services in Norway that are taxable in Norway. 	Full Text

Europe	Belgium	Duty of Vigilance Law	Not yet adopted; proposed in 2021	Human rights, environment	Under the proposed act, all companies established or active in Belgium would be required to respect human rights, labor rights, and the environment and continuously identify, prevent, mitigate, and cease environmental harm, human rights and labour rights violations, or any risks thereof in their value chains. The duty of vigilance would be proportional to the size of the subject enterprise and the means at its disposal to identify and mitigate these risks. The obligation also would extend to subsidiaries of the subject enterprise.	The Act would apply to all enterprises established or active in Belgium. Large companies and those operating in high-risk sectors or regions would have greater obligations under the Act.	Full Text (FRE & GER)
	The Netherlands	Responsible and Sustainable International Business Conduct	Not yet adopted; introduced in 2021 and amended in 2022	Human rights, environment	The Act would seek to mitigate human rights risks, as well as environmental risks that can result in human rights violations, in global supply chains. Subject enterprises that "know or should reasonably suspect that their activities, or those of their business relationships, may have adverse impacts on human rights or the environment in countries outside of the Netherlands would be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take all measures reasonably required to prevent such adverse impacts; • If the impacts cannot be prevented, mitigate or reverse them to the extent possible and, where necessary, enable remediation; and • If the impacts cannot be sufficiently limited, refrain from the relevant activity or terminate the relationship if it is reasonable to do so." 	<p>"An undertaking would be subject to the Act if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a Dutch or other EU undertaking that engages in activities outside the Netherlands; or • Is a non-EU undertaking engaging in activities or marketing products in the Netherlands; and it • Is a large undertaking under the EU Accounting Directive, i.e., it meets at least two of the following thresholds for the applicable fiscal year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A balance sheet of €20 million; ◦ Net turnover of €40 million; and ◦ An average of 250 employees during the financial year (including part time and agency workers)." 	Full Text
	European Union	Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive	Provisional Agreement reached late 2023; first proposed in 2022 and expected to be approved mid-2024	Human rights, environment	The Directive will require companies to integrate due diligence into policies and risk management systems. Companies will be required to identify, assess, prevent, mitigate and remediate adverse impacts on human rights and the environment in a company's own operations, and that of its subsidiaries and in-scope business partners. Further, companies will be required to design and implement a climate transition plan to ensure that business models comply with targets to limit global warming to 1.5°C.	EU companies that have more than 500 employees and a net worldwide turnover of €150 million. Companies operating in certain high-risk sectors will be subject to lower thresholds. Non-EU companies with €150 million net turnover generated in the EU.	Full Text (June 2023 Amendments)
	European Union	EU Critical Raw Materials Act	Proposed 2023	Environment, Human Rights	<p>The proposed Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "strengthen the different stages of the European critical raw materials value chain; • diversify the EU's imports of critical raw materials to reduce strategic dependencies; • improve the EU capacity to monitor and mitigate current and future risks of disruptions to the supply of critical raw materials; • ensure the free movement of critical raw materials on the single market while ensuring a high level of environmental protection, by improving their circularity and sustainability." <p>The CRMA would cover 'critical' and 'strategic' raw materials selected by the Commission on the basis of their economic importance and supply risk. Crucially, the CRMA acknowledges that the improved security and affordability of critical raw materials supplies must be accompanied by concerted efforts to mitigate negative impacts on labor rights, human rights, and environmental protection both within the EU and in third countries. The CRMA would also establish a critical raw materials 'club' for all countries interested in strengthening global supply chains.</p>	EU Member States and European companies in mining and in the critical raw materials supply chain.	Full Text



Europe	European Union	EU Batteries Regulation	Entered into force 2023	Environment, Human Rights	<p>The regulation requires an individual battery passport, accessible via QR-code, for each industrial battery with a capacity of more than 2 kWh, EV battery, and LMT battery. The battery passport will include information on the battery manufacturer, the manufacturing facility location, and more. Further, these batteries must have a carbon footprint declaration and label outlining levels of recycled cobalt, lead, lithium and nickel used in the battery production, among other requirements.</p> <p>Additionally, the regulation introduces supply chain due diligence requirements for large battery manufacturers and importers placing new batteries on the EU market. The due diligence requirements include the adoption and communication of a due diligence policy for batteries in alignment with an internationally recognized standard, the establishment of management systems to support that policy, the identification and assessment of risks in upstream supply chains, and the design and implementation of strategies to respond to identified risks. Third party verification of due diligence policies and their implementation will also be required by the regulation. The Regulation's due diligence requirements will come into force in August 2025.</p>	<p>All batteries placed on the EU market are in scope, even those manufactured outside of the EU. The list of in-scope batteries includes portable batteries; electric vehicle batteries; industrial batteries; light means of transport (LMT) batteries; starting, lighting, and ignition batteries; and batteries that have already been incorporated into a product.</p> <p>In-scope companies are defined by the regulation as importers, manufacturers, distributors, authorised representatives, fulfilment service providers, or others that place batteries or make them available on the EU market.</p>	Full Text
Americas	United States	Federal Acquisition Regulation (Subpart 22.1703)	Entered into force 1984	Forced Labour/modern slavery	This Act mandates that government solicitations and contracts prohibit contractors, contractor employees, subcontractors, subcontractor employees, and their agents from trafficking in persons.	U.S. government agencies.	Full Text
	United States	The Fostering Overseas Rule of law and Environmentally Sound Trade (FOREST) Act of 2021	Not yet in force; proposed 2021	Deforestation	The FOREST Act aims to disincentive illegal deforestation by restricting certain commodities and derivative products originating from illegally deforested lands from accessing the U.S. market. If the FOREST Act is passed by Congress, foreign producers of covered commodities, such as palm oil, soy, cocoa, cattle, rubber, and wood pulp, as well as foreign companies that produce products that are wholly or partially derived from these commodities will be affected by the new legislation. The Act would also create a fund to help countries transition away from deforestation and create effective enforcement and conservation programs.	Foreign companies producing covered commodities.	Full Text
	United States	End Palm Oil Deforestation Act	Not in force; proposed 2021	Deforestation/ Human Rights	The Act aims to strengthen enforcement actions against unlawfully sourced palm oil and deforestation in developing countries, and for other purposes. The act requires the certification of palm oil imports against human rights and environmental sustainability standards. Additionally, the Act prohibits federal fundings of foreign palm oil operations abroad unless sustainability criteria are met.	Government agencies, and American companies.	Full Text
	Brazil	MTE Decree No. 540/2004	Entered into force 2004	Forced Labor/modern slavery	<p>Decree No. 540/2004 created a register of names of employers found to be exploiting workers in conditions analogous to slavery. The names are published on a national Dirty List, which is searchable and updated every six months. Further information on the list includes the owner of the offending company, the location of the offence, the product cultivated, and the number of workers subjected to forced labour.</p> <p>When a company is placed on the list, it is monitored for two years and cannot have its name removed until it has paid its fines and restitution and has not committed recent instances of forced labour. If these criteria are met, the offending company's name is taken off the list.</p>	All Brazilian companies.	Full Text (PRT)



Americas	Brazil	Framework for Business and Human Rights (PL 572/2022)	Not yet in force; proposed 2022	Human Rights, forced labour/modern slavery	Bill No. 572, of 2022, creates a national framework law on human rights and businesses in Brazil, and establishes guidelines for the promotion of public policies on this topic. The proposed law requires companies to respect and protect human rights, conduct due diligence on human rights risks in their operations, and establish mechanisms to remedy any human rights violations that may occur. It also establishes the National Human Rights and Business Forum, which will be responsible for promoting dialogue and cooperation between businesses, civil society, and the government to advance the protection and promotion of human rights in business activities.	Brazilian companies and government agencies.	Full Text (PRT)
	Costa Rica	2015 National Policy on Sustainable Public Procurement and Creation of the National Steering Committee of Sustainable Procurement	Entered into force 2015	Child Labour, Forced Labour, Environmental Sustainability	The PNCPS mandates that contracting authorities have to consider in their procurement processes the environment, human rights, labour rights, the eradication of child labour, gender mainstreaming and people with disabilities in line with national policies and laws. The Act mentions that these considerations should cascade down through the supply chain, from importing activities to waste disposal of the products and can be applicable to any stage of the life cycle of goods, services or public works, which means that they can be required throughout the supply chain.	Costa Rican Government Agencies.	Full Text (ESP)
	United States	Lacey Act	Entered into force 1900	Illegal logging	The Lacey Act, initially enacted in 1900, is a United States law that bans trafficking in fish, wildlife, or plants that are illegally taken, possessed, transported, or sold. Prior to 2008, the Lacey Act only applied to a narrow range of plants indigenous to the United States and did not prohibit trade in plants taken in violation of foreign law. However, in 2008, the Lacey Act was amended to include a prohibition on trade in plants and plant products, such as timber and paper, harvested in violation of foreign law. This landmark legislation constituted the world's first ban on trade in illegally sourced wood products.	The Act makes it unlawful for any person to deal with (e.g., import, export, or transport) or attempt to deal with aforementioned items in violation of domestic or foreign laws.	Full Text
	United States	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act	Entered into force 1976	IUU fishing	The primary law that governs marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters, the MSA fosters the long-term biological and economic sustainability of marine fisheries. The Act established a prohibition on the import and trade, in interstate or foreign commerce, of fish taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any foreign law or regulation or in contravention of a treaty or a binding conservation measure of a regional fishery organization to which the United States is a party.	The Act makes it unlawful for any person to deal with (e.g., import, export, or transport) or attempt to deal with aforementioned items in violation of domestic or foreign laws.	Full Text
	United States	Executive Order 13126	Entered into force 1999	Child labour	Executive Order 13126 requires the US Department of Labor to maintain a list of products and their countries of origin that have been produced by forced child labor. This List is intended to ensure that U.S. federal agencies do not procure goods made by forced or indentured child labor. Under procurement regulations, federal contractors who supply products on the List must certify that they have made a good faith effort to determine whether forced or indentured child labor was used to produce the items supplied.	U.S. Federal agencies.	Full Text
	Canada	Order in Council 2019-0299	Entered into force 2019	Forced Labor, Environmental Degradation, Human Rights	The Order in Council established the mandate of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE). CORE is an independent and impartial human rights ombudsperson that examines complaints of alleged human rights abuses committed by Canadian companies operating outside Canada in the garment, mining and oil and gas sectors. The CORE is the first Ombud office in the world with a mandate to hold national garment, mining and oil and gas companies accountable for possible human rights abuses resulting from their operations and supply chains abroad.	Canadian companies.	Full Text

Asia	Japan	Revised Clean Wood Act	Entered into force 2023	Illegal logging	<p>Based on a five-year review of the Clean Wood Act (CWA), the revised CWA now mandates in-scope companies to take measures to ensure the use of legally harvested timber and timber products. Under the revised Act, "upstream timber-related businesses" that purchase timber directly from domestic producers and "waterfront timber-related businesses" that import timber, are required to collect raw material information and confirm legality (Article 6), prepare and maintain records (Article 7), and communicate information to relevant actors, including downstream buyers (Article 8). The revised Act also includes retailers as wood-related businesses.</p> <p>The confirmation of legality as specified in the revised Act is not confirmation that the timber is not illegally logged, but rather, confirmation that there is a high probability that the timber is not illegally logged. The revised Act and accompanying guidelines do not provide minimum requirement standards for determining legality. Additionally, businesses are still allowed to procure timber which has not been confirmed as legal following the required due diligence, though they may face heightened pressure and scrutiny from their buyers and the government. More details will emerge regarding the Act's implementation and requirements over the next two years.</p>	The Act applies to Japan's entire domestic supply chain including timber importers, manufacturers, exporters, and retailers.	Full Text
	Indonesia	Minister of Environment and Forestry Decree No. SK.9895/MenLHK-PHL/BPPHH/HPL.3/12/2022	Entered into force 2023	Illegal logging	<p>This regulation establishes new standards and guidelines for the implementation of the Sistem Verifikasi Legalitas & Kelestarian (SVLK) or Forest Legality and Sustainability Assurance Program (SVLK), previously known as the Timber Legality Verification and Legalisation System, which itself was established as a result of the Indonesia-EU FLEGT VPA. Through this new system, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry aims to emphasize the credibility and legality of forest products, which now include Hasil Hutan Bukan Kayu (HHBK) or Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), as well as traceability and forest management sustainability. The sustainability components of the SVLK were strengthened by adding requirements stipulated by the EU in its deforestation regulation. In line with the EU regulation, the SVLK now hosts a requirement for timber producers to include the geographic coordinates of their plots of land. Additionally, sustainability operational plans submitted to the government by timber producers will now go through a verification process, where previously they did not.</p>	This decree applies to importers, producers, and exporters of forest products.	Full Text (IDN)
	China	Revised Forest Law	Entered into force 2020	Illegal logging	<p>The Act mainly concerns China's domestic forests, but its Article 65 unofficially translated says that "Timber operating and processing enterprises shall establish the input and output ledger for raw materials and products. No entity or individual may purchase, process, or transport timber that is knowingly sourced illegally."</p>	The Act's Article 65 on timber sourcing applies to any 'entity or individual.'	Full Text
	Vietnam	Law on Forestry	Entered into force 2019	Illegal logging	<p>The Law regulates the management, protection, development and exploitation of forests, along with the processing and trade of forest products. Specifically, the Law prohibits the storage, transit, import, or export of illegally logged timber. The Law also provides a legal foundation for the establishment of the Vietnam Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS).</p>	This law applies to timber importers, domestic producers and traders, and exporters. The Forest Law applies to importers, potentially others too. The VNTLAS applies to importers and all other domestic timber traders including exporters. The Forest Law applies to all timber products imported into Vietnam.	Full Text



Asia	Malaysia	<p>Malaysian Timber Legality Assurance System (MYTLAS), Sabah Timber Legality Assurance System (Sabah TLAS), and Sarawak Timber Legality Verification System (STLVS)</p>	<p>MYTLAS: In operation since 2013</p> <p>Sabah TLAS: In operation since 2010</p> <p>STLVS: In operation since 2017</p>	Illegal logging	<p>Three different Timber Legality Assurance Systems (TLAS) were created to meet the requirements of the Malaysia-EU FLEGT VPA negotiations: MYTLAS in Peninsular Malaysia (MYTLAS), Sabah TLAS in Sabah, and STLVS in Sarawak (STLVS). The three due diligence systems are based on respective current state regulatory systems, and ensure the legality of licensed timber and timber products from harvest to export.</p> <p>The Malaysian Timber Legality Assurance System (MYTLAS) is Peninsular Malaysia's voluntary timber licensing system. The issuance of MYTLAS certificates for export to EU countries began in 2013, and expanded to the entire export market in 2022. The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) is responsible for issuing certificates.</p> <p>The Sabah Timber Legality Assurance System (Sabah TLAS) is Sabah's mandatory timber licensing system. Sabah TLS began operation in 2010 with the evaluation of commercial natural forests. It was expanded in 2015 to monitor compliance of all licensed forest concessions and all manufacturing and trading companies in Sabah. Compliance checks are conducted through a third-party auditor, Global Forestry Services (GFS) and the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) issues Compliance Certificates based on GFS' annual monitoring reports. The SFD issues penalties for companies that do not demonstrate compliance and requires that companies address non-compliance within two months of notice. Monitoring results are made public on GFS' website.</p> <p>The Sarawak Timber Legality System (STLVS) is Sarawak's voluntary timber licensing system. STLVS was developed in 2016 by an interagency committee which included both Sarawak timber industry and government agencies. STLVS is regulated by four agencies under the Ministry of Urban Development and Natural Resources of Sarawak, namely, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd. STLVS is audited by third party auditors registered with the FDS. Harwood Timber Sdn Bhd (HTSB) is the authorised agency for issuing Export Clearance Certificates for export logs.</p>	<p>These systems apply to importers, producers, and exporters of forest products.</p>	<p>Details (MYTLAS site)</p> <p>Details (Sabah TLAS site)</p> <p>Details (STLVS site)</p>
	South Korea	<p>Bill on Human Rights and Environmental Protection for Sustainable Business Management</p>	<p>Not yet in force; proposed 2023</p>	Environmental Degradation, Human Rights	<p>The Bill would require companies to design and implement due diligence processes. This would include establishing human rights policies, conducting risk assessments, implementing risk-and-impact monitoring systems, disclosing relevant information to stakeholders, operating grievance mechanisms, and in the event of identifying adverse impacts, developing and executing remedial measures. Additionally, a representative of the company or the company's authorised head of the business must prepare a due diligence plan and report it to the company's Board of Directors for its approval on an annual basis.</p> <p>The Bill would establish a Human Rights and Environment Company Committee under the office of the Prime Minister. The Committee would mediate business activities and resolve due diligence disputes. The Committee would also prescribe corrective measures or orders to non-compliant companies. Companies operating in areas where human rights risks are high would be required to submit their due diligence reports to the Committee.</p> <p>The Bill would also establish a Human Rights and Environmental Violation Victim Assistance Fund to support victims.</p>	<p>Companies registered in Korea with 500 or more employees, or a revenue equal to or greater than 200 billion Korean Won (approx. USD 153 million) in the previous financial year. The requirements of the Bill would also apply to foreign companies with Korean branches and operations with 500 or more employees, or revenue equal to or greater than 200 billion Korean Won (approx. USD 153 million) in the previous financial year.</p> <p>The Bill excludes SMEs from due diligence obligations except for the following cases: where the business activities are directly or indirectly involved in illegal activities under international criminal law; where the business activities are directly or indirectly linked to child labor; or where the business activities are carried out in conflict/high-risk areas.</p>	<p>Full Text (KOR)</p>

Region	Countries	Legislation	Status	Key Issue Areas	Legislation Summary	Scope	Full Text
<i>Import Bans</i>							
Europe	European Union	Forced Labour Regulation Proposal	Not in force; proposed 2022	Forced labour/modern slavery	The proposed regulation would prohibit products made using forced labour, including child labour, in the internal EU market, including both domestically produced and imported products. The provisions of the proposal would apply to products of any type, including their components, regardless of the sector or industry.	All EU states, who would be responsible for enforcement of the regulation.	Full Text
	European Union	EU Deforestation Regulation	Entered into force 2023	Deforestation	The EU Deforestation Regulation requires companies sourcing cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soy, and wood, as well as products derived from these commodities, to conduct extensive diligence on the value chain to ensure the goods do not result from recent (post 31 December 2020) deforestation, forest degradation or breaches of local environmental and social laws.	The Regulation covers seven commodities--cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soy, and wood--as well as many of their derived products.	Full Text
Oceania	New Zealand	Customs Import Prohibition (Goods Produced by Prison Labour) Order 2019	Entered into force 2019	Prison labour	This Order prohibits the importation or exportation of goods manufactured or produced using prison labour.	The Act applies to all imports and exports of products, except under circumstances of conditional prohibition.	Full Text
	New Zealand	Forests (Legal Harvest Assurance) Amendment Act 2023	Entered into force in 2023	Environment	The Act amends the Forests Acts 1949 and creates a system wherein a legal harvest system that covers importers, exporters, log traders, foresters, and processors will have to register with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and demonstrate the due diligence they are undertaking to reduce the risk of dealing with timber that is illegally harvested.	Forest owners, or those responsible for the harvest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • log traders • primary or first-stage processors • importers • exporters 	Full Text
	New Zealand	Ozone Layer Protection Act 1996	Entered into force in 1996	Environment	The Act aims to help protect human health and the environment from adverse effects resulting or likely to result from human activities which modify or are likely to modify the ozone layer and phase out ozone depleting substances as soon as possible except for essential uses. The Act prohibits the import, export, manufacture, or sale of ozone-depleting substances, except for as allowed under the Act's regulations. Approval from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is required to import a variety of goods containing ozone depleting substances, such as, aerosols; dehumidifiers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, supermarket display cases, heat pumps and water coolers that contain CFCs; dry cleaning machines; fire extinguishers containing or designed to contain halons, and plastic foams manufactured using CFCs.	The Act applies to Imports, exports, manufactures, or sales except those granted exemption by the Environmental Protection Agency.	Full Text
	Australia	Customs Amendment (Banning Goods Produced By Forced Labour) Bill 2022	Not yet in force; proposed in 2022	Forced labour/modern slavery	The Bill seeks to amend the Customs Act 1901 to prohibit the importation into Australia of goods that are produced in whole or in part by forced labour.	All entities importing into Australia.	Full Text
	Australia	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act	Amended version entered into force 2018	Illegal logging	The Act prohibits the importation of illegally logged timber and requires importers to conduct due diligence to reduce the risk that illegally logged timber is imported or processed. Importers of regulated timber products must provide declarations, at the time of import, to the Customs Minister about the due diligence that they have undertaken.	Imports of timber and timber products.	Full Text



Americas	Mexico	Forced Labor Regulation	Entered into force 2023	Forced labour/modern slavery	Similar to the United States' and Canada's forced labour import prohibitions, Mexico's regulation contains a blanket prohibition on imports into Mexico of goods produced, in whole or part, through forced or compulsory labour. The regulation's definition of "forced and compulsory labor" aligns with the Forced Labour Convention of the International Labour Organization, meaning any labour or service required of an individual, including minors, under the threat of any penalty and for which such individual is not offered voluntarily.	All entities importing into Mexico.	Full Text (ESP)
	Canada	An Act to enact the Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act and to amend the Customs Tariff	Entered into force 2024	Forced labour/modern slavery	<p>This Bill aims to increase industry awareness and transparency and drive businesses to improve practices. The Act contains two parts.</p> <p>The first part of the Act imposes an obligation on certain entities and government institutions to submit an annual report to the Minister of Public Safety by May 31 of each year on the steps taken during the previous financial year to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used by them or in their supply chains. Reports will be made available to the public in an electronic registry on Public Safety Canada's website as well as in a prominent location on the reporting entity or government institution's website.</p> <p>The second part amends the Customs Tariff to expand the prohibition on the importation of goods mined, manufactured, or produced, in whole or in part by forced labour, to also include child labour.</p>	<p>The Act applies to any corporation, trust, partnership, or other unincorporated organization whose activities include producing, selling or distributing goods in Canada or elsewhere, importing goods into Canada, or controlling an entity engaged in these activities. Additionally, the entity must either be listed on a stock exchange in Canada or have a place of business in Canada, do business in Canada or have assets in Canada and meet two of the following three criteria for at least one of its two most recent financial years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$20 million or more in assets - \$40 million or more in revenue -250 or more employees <p>The legislation also applies to any government institution producing, purchasing, or distributing goods in Canada or elsewhere.</p>	Full Text
	Canada	Section 136 of the Customs Tariff Act	Entered into force 2020	Forced labour/modern slavery	The Canada-United States-Mexico Implementation Act amended the Customs Tariff and the Schedule to the Customs Tariff to include a prohibition on the importation of goods that are mined, manufactured or produced wholly or in part by forced labour.	All entities importing into Canada.	Full Text
	United States	Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015	Entered into force 2016	Forced labour/modern slavery	<p>The Act strengthens the capabilities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to enforce U.S. trade laws and regulations. More specifically, the Act repeals the "consumptive demand" clause in the Tariff Act of 1930, which allowed importation of forced-labour goods, "if the goods were not produced in such quantities in the United States as to meet the consumptive demands of the United States."</p> <p>The repeal of the consumptive demand exception enhances CBP's ability to prevent products made with forced labour from being imported into the United States.</p>	All entities importing into the United States.	Full Text
	United States	United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021	Not yet in force; passed Senate 2021	IUU fishing, forced labour/modern slavery	<p>The Act aims to improve and increase the federal government's capacity to prevent the importation of foreign goods produced through forced and child labour. If enacted, the legislation would permanently create a "Forced Labor Division" within the Office of Trade of U.S. Customs and Border Protection responsible for receiving and investigating allegations filed pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930.</p> <p>The Act would also require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to issue regulations providing for the verification of seafood imports to ensure that no seafood or seafood product harvested or produced using forced labour is entered into the United States in violation of the Tariff Act of 1930.</p>	American companies and government agencies.	Full Text
	United States	Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930	Entered into force 1930	Forced labour/modern slavery	Section 307 of Tariff Act of 1930 prohibits the importation of merchandise mined, produced or manufactured, wholly or in part, in any foreign country by forced or indentured labour – including forced child labour. Such merchandise is subject to exclusion and/or seizure and may lead to criminal investigation of the importer(s).	All entities importing into the United States.	Full Text



Americas	United States	Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act	Entered into force 2021	Forced labour/modern slavery	This bill imposes various restrictions related to China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, including by prohibiting certain imports from Xinjiang and imposing sanctions on those responsible for human rights violations there.	Goods manufactured or produced in Xinjiang shall not be entitled to entry into the United States unless U.S. Customs and Border Protection (1) determines that the goods were not manufactured by convict labour, forced labour, or indentured labour under penal sanctions; and (2) reports such a determination to Congress and to the public.	Full Text
	Canada	Xinjiang Manufactured Goods Importation Prohibition Act	Not yet in force; proposed 2021	Forced labour/modern slavery	This Bill would prohibit importation of goods produced or manufactured in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.	All entities importing into Canada.	Full Text
Asia	South Korea	Revised Act on the Sustainable Use of Timbers	Entered into force 2017	Illegal logging	The Act requires that companies document the legality of timber imports prior to import. If documentary evidence is considered inadequate upon inspection at the border, authorities can ban the shipment from being imported. Failure to comply with the law can result in business licences being suspended or timber product registrations being revoked, or in serious cases of repeatedly and knowingly imports of illegally logged timber, companies can be fined up to 30,000 USD or imprisonment up to three years.	The Act applies to South Korea's entire domestic supply chain including timber importers, manufacturers, and distributors. The Act applies to several key categories of timber products imported into South Korea (including processed and unprocessed types of timber) but not all.	Full Text



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<https://modernslaverypec.org/assets/downloads/Integrating-Policies-Full-Report.pdf>

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