

A common standard to verify deforestation and conversion free soy in global supply chains

UK Soy Manifesto and British Standards Institution to develop a deforestation and conversion free soy standard

Investing in supply chains that are deforestation and conversion free is essential for the long-term resilience and security of global supply chains on which businesses and consumers depend.

The [UK Soy Manifesto](#) (UKSM) is a group of 51 major companies whom together have set out a market requirement for all physical shipments of soy to the UK to be verified as deforestation and conversion free (DCF) by the end of 2025.

For downstream companies it is challenging to communicate a clearly defined contractable request for DCF soy through multiple tiers of complex supply chains and verify that soy entering and flowing through these supply chains meets this requirement.

The lack of a clear and standardised mechanism to do this creates confusion, adds administrative burden where multiple companies are asking for similar information, undermines confidence in claims, and is ultimately slowing progress towards the delivery of shared DCF goals. Uncertainty and delay in mandatory regulatory requirements for deforestation free commodities in UK, Europe and elsewhere, means the private sector must continue to show leadership.

Working with the British Standards Institution (the UK's National Standards Body) and funded by the 19 companies below, the Manifesto has begun the development of a BSI verified DCF Standard (vDCF) to enable companies to specify, verify and report on uptake of verified DCF soy in their supply chains

Companies are clear that this standard should work alongside and build upon measures already being taken to support sustainable soy production, including existing certification standards and the developing AIC Sustainable Commodities Scheme in the UK. The Standard could act as the basis for an international vDCF standard with European/global application

The aim of the standard is to simplify procurement processes within complex supply chains, reduce reporting complexity and provide a level playing field for industry by ensuring requirements for DCF soy are consistent.

The standard development process will take approximately 12 months and involve Manifesto members and a broader set of stakeholders across the soy supply chain and undergo public consultation.

For further information, please contact info@efeca.com.

Published October 2025

Funding Signatories:

Tesco Stores Ltd
Co-op
Lidl Great Britain Ltd
Iceland Foods Ltd
Pilgrim's Europe
Oscar Mayer Ltd
Nando's

Waitrose and Partners
Wm Morrison Supermarkets Ltd
ALDI Stores Ltd
Bakkavor UK
The Compleat Food Group
Princes Group

Marks & Spencer
Sainsbury's Supermarkets Ltd
Ocado Retail
Greencore
Hilton Foods
Avara Foods