

CountEmissionsEU – What does it mean for freight forwarders and logistics companies?

What is CountEmissionsEU?

CountEmissionsEU is a new EU Regulation establishing a common framework for calculating and communicating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from freight and passenger transport services. Its objective is to ensure that emissions reported by different companies are calculated using the same methodology, making results transparent, reliable, and comparable across Europe. The Regulation is based on the international standard **ISO 14083**.

The [Regulation](#) will apply from **2 December 2030**.

Does the Regulation apply to every company?

Not automatically. CountEmissionsEU does **not** require every transport company or freight forwarder to calculate emissions. Instead, it applies whenever a company **chooses to communicate emissions** for a transport service (for commercial purposes) or **is required by EU, national legislation or by contractual agreement** to provide emissions information. In practice, customer demand, procurement requirements, and sustainability reporting (CSDR) are expected to make emissions reporting increasingly common throughout the logistics sector.

What will companies need to do?

Where emissions are reported, companies will need to:

- calculate emissions using the harmonised ISO 14083 methodology;
- prioritise the use of **primary (actual operational) data** where available;
- use recognised default values where primary data is not available;
- provide emissions at the level of the individual transport service;
- be able to demonstrate how the calculation was performed if requested.

For freight forwarders, this means obtaining more operational information from carriers and subcontractors and ensuring that IT systems can exchange reliable emissions data throughout the supply chain.

What support will the EU provide?

To facilitate implementation, the European Commission will develop:

- a **free EU emissions calculation tool**, particularly designed for SMEs operators (not freight forwarders);
- central **EU databases** containing recognised default emission factors and default emission intensity values.

What does this mean for SMEs?

The Regulation recognises that smaller companies have fewer resources and therefore includes several important simplifications:

- **SMEs are exempt from mandatory verification** of their emissions calculations. They may choose to have their calculations verified voluntarily if they wish to demonstrate compliance to customers.
- Member States **cannot require SMEs to use primary data** where national rules make primary data mandatory for larger domestic operators.
- The Regulation also states that **large companies should apply the principle of proportionality** when requesting verification or supporting evidence from SME value-chain partners, helping to avoid unnecessary administrative burdens.

Why is this important for CLECAT Members?

For freight forwarders, the main challenges will not be performing the calculation itself, but obtaining reliable operational data across multimodal supply chains, ensuring interoperability between systems, and keeping reporting proportionate.

CLECAT will closely monitor the development of the implementing rules to ensure that the system remains practical, avoids unnecessary administrative burdens, and reflects the operational realities of freight forwarding and logistics.

What happens next?

Although the Regulation has entered into force, many of the practical implementation rules still need to be developed before it starts to apply in December 2030. Over the coming four years, the European Commission will prepare a series of implementing and delegated acts that will define how the Regulation will work in practice.

Among the most important deliverables are:

- The **clarification of the calculation methodology**, providing additional guidance on the application of ISO 14083 and ensuring consistent implementation across Member States.
- A **free EU calculation tool** for transport operators, particularly SMEs, together with a user manual. As noted above, the tool is intended as a basic solution and is not expected to cover complex multimodal logistics operations or freight forwarding activities.
- Two **central EU databases**, managed with the support of the European Environment Agency ([EEA](#)):
 - a database of default GHG emission factors for transport energy carriers; and
 - a database of default emission intensity values for transport operations.These databases are intended to provide harmonised, scientifically validated default values and will be regularly updated.
- **Certification rules for commercial calculation tools**, ensuring that privately developed software complies with the CountEmissionsEU methodology.
- **Verification procedures**, specifying what evidence companies should retain and how emissions calculations will be verified for companies subject to verification requirements.

The Commission may also adopt delegated acts in the future to update references to ISO 14083, refine the output metrics, or adjust accreditation rules for verification bodies if experience with the Regulation shows that changes are necessary.

Why is CLECAT seeking Members' feedback?

The development of this secondary legislation will determine how practical and proportionate CountEmissionsEU will be for freight forwarders and logistics service providers. Many of the key implementation questions, such as the availability of operational data, the use of default values, verification requirements, and interoperability between systems, have not yet been finalised.

The European Commission's DG MOVE has launched a continuously open **call for applications** to select members of **the new Expert Group on Transport Emissions Accounting (EGOTEA)**, which will support the implementation of the CountEmissionsEU Regulation.

Members of the group, which will include Member States' authorities, other public entities, and private organisations, will provide technical advice on the upcoming implementing and delegated acts as well as on the EU default datasets for CountEmissionsEU. They will further exchange experience and good practices on emissions accounting in transport, on related data standards, as well as verification and disclosure practices.

The call is open to organisations with relevant expertise in transport emissions accounting. We encourage interested experts to review the call for applications and apply by **10 July by submitting the required forms**. A first round of evaluations will be organised by DG MOVE in July 2026 and subsequently every year.

Please note that CLECAT will make an application as a *trade and business association*.

Please find the call for applications at this link and attached to this email (with related annexes):
[618c3829-ff50-4332-bab3-6767494fc38e_en](https://ec.europa.eu/transport/consultations/618c3829-ff50-4332-bab3-6767494fc38e_en)