How should operators assess which areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are subject to restrictions?

Council Regulation (EU) No 2022/263 covers all areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine that are not under the control of the authorities of Ukraine at the time of the import of the goods. Considering the fluid situation, a dynamic assessment could be necessary. When it comes to the application of the preferences under the Association Agreement (AA) between the EU and Ukraine, Ukraine does not issue certificates of origin for goods originating in the non-government controlled areas of its Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts. In addition, Ukraine has withdrawn offices in those areas from the list of authorised offices to issue certificates of origin. On 23 February the Commission published a notice to importers informing that goods produced in and exported from the non-government controlled areas would not meet the criteria established in Protocol 1 to the AA (on rules of origin) and therefore advising operators not to claim the preferences. Goods may be imported under preferences from the areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts that are under the control of the authorities of Ukraine.