

Multiannual National Control Plan for the food chain and utility articles

FAQ

Switzerland



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Principality of Liechtenstein



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**Federal Food Safety and
Veterinary Office FSVO**

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1. What is the Multiannual National Control Plan?

The Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) for Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein is a document that is published in electronic form and describes the strategic and operational objectives, organisation and structure of the official control system in the fields of plant health, feedstuffs, animal health, animal welfare, food safety and utility articles.

Background

The MANCP describes the roles and responsibilities of the various competent authorities at both federal and cantonal level in the fields of plant health, feedstuffs, animal health, animal welfare, food safety and utility articles. The detailed allocation of duties and organisation of the cantonal offices are described in the appendix "Canton profiles". The MANCP shows how these various offices cooperate in order to ensure the health of humans, animals and plants, to protect consumers and to promote the wellbeing of animals. It even describes the training of the people who carry out the official controls. Emergency plans for exceptional situations (e.g. epidemics or highly infectious animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease) are also provided for in the above-mentioned control areas. The strategic and operational objectives and planned control activities for the planning period form a very important part of the MANCP.

The strategic objectives of the MANCP are to ensure that:

1. Food on the market is safe and compliant with legal requirements.
2. The system continues to develop and promotes co-operation.
3. The system actively prevents crises and manages them successfully.
4. Optimum market access conditions are created.

The control activities consist partly in so-called process controls (control of processes such as inspections of feed producers or food companies) and partly in so-called product controls (control of products or rather analysis of products such as feed or ready-to-eat food). Its validity period is limited. Switzerland's first National Control Plan, for example, was in force from 2007 to 2009. The current MANCP covers the period 2024 to 2027.



2. Why is a Multiannual National Control Plan needed?

As a result of the bilateral agreement concluded with the European Union in 1999 on trade in agricultural products and its entry into force in 2002, Swiss food law underwent a thorough revision in 2005. The aim of the revision was to establish equivalence with European law in the relevant areas. This required, amongst other things, a harmonisation of Swiss regulations with the regulations of the European Union, especially Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare rules. This European regulation provides for the

elaboration and implementation of a multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP). This EU Regulation was superseded in April 2017 by Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law and rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

The MANCP is a basic strategic tool to guarantee the safety and conformity of products throughout the food chain.



3. What is the benefit of the Multiannual National Control Plan?

The creation of a Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) is one of the consequences of signing the bilateral agreement with the European Union (EU) and is therefore necessary in order to guarantee trade with EU Member States. At the same time, it is an important strategy paper for Switzerland that is valid throughout the food chain (see [Ordinance on the Multiannual National Control Plan for the Food Chain and Utility Articles, SR 817.032](#)). The MANCP is a “description of the control system to ensure the health of humans, animals and plants, to protect consumers and to promote the wellbeing of animals”.

Background

The strategic objectives formulated in the MANCP for 2024 - 2027 are to ensure that:

1. Food on the market is safe and compliant with legal requirements.
2. The system continues to develop and promotes co-operation.
3. The system actively prevents crises and manages them successfully.
4. Optimum market access conditions are created.

These objectives are broken down into operational objectives and are assessed for their achievement by means of regular analyses and indicators. If it is considered necessary, action is then taken and/or new priorities are set.

The MANCP also serves as an important supporting document for the inspection services of the European Commission that carry out controls in Member States and in third countries (trading partners). These inspection services use the MANCP to verify whether the official controls are being performed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law and rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

Any shortcomings and gaps discovered in the MANCP are followed up during in-depth on-the-spot inspections.



4. What is the situation in the surrounding EU countries regarding Multiannual National Control Plans?

Every Member State of the European Union (EU) must put EU law into practice and therefore has to draw up a Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP).

Background

The EU provides for two kinds of legislation:

- ▶ Regulation - takes immediate effect (without national law having to be adapted/widened)
- ▶ Directive - has to be adopted in the national laws of the Member States

The legal basis for the MANCP is Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law and rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products (Official Controls Regulation). Under the terms of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/723 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the standard model form to be used in the annual reports submitted by Member States, the EU Member States periodically provide the EU with an annual report on their MANCP that serves as a control instrument. The annual report is a control instrument because it explains the progress made in the implementation of the MANCP and evaluates the effectiveness of the control system. The basis for this evaluation is the set of results obtained from the official controls in the fields of plant health, feed, animal health, animal welfare and food safety.

The annual analysis of the control data not only allows the effectiveness of the control systems to be reviewed but also enables them to be further developed and continuously improved.



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5. Is the Multiannual National Control Plan a world-wide system? What do other countries do?

The Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) is defined and stipulated as such in the legislation of the European Union and in pertinent ordinances of Switzerland. There is no Multiannual National Control Plan as such in other countries of the world. This does not mean, however, that food safety is not important in those countries. Most other countries use the Codex Alimentarius standards (Principles and Guidelines CAC/GL 82-2013). The Codex Alimentarius has published these principles and guidelines for national food systems with the aim of supporting national governments and their competent authorities in the design, development, implementation, evaluation and improvement of their national food control system.

Background

There are different systems, terms and concepts, but the ultimate aim is the same:

- ▶ sufficient food (food security)
- ▶ healthy food (food safety)

Links to some foreign offices in alphabetical order:

- ▶ [Argentina](#)
- ▶ [Australia](#)
- ▶ [Bangkok](#)
- ▶ [Bolivia](#)
- ▶ [Canada](#)
- ▶ [Guatemala](#)
- ▶ [India](#)
- ▶ [Israel](#)
- ▶ Japan ([link a](#) and [link b](#))
- ▶ [New Zealand](#)
- ▶ Philippines ([link a](#) and [link b](#))
- ▶ Russian Federation ([link a](#) and [link b](#))
- ▶ [South Africa](#)
- ▶ [South Korea](#)
- ▶ [Thailand](#)
- ▶ [USA](#)

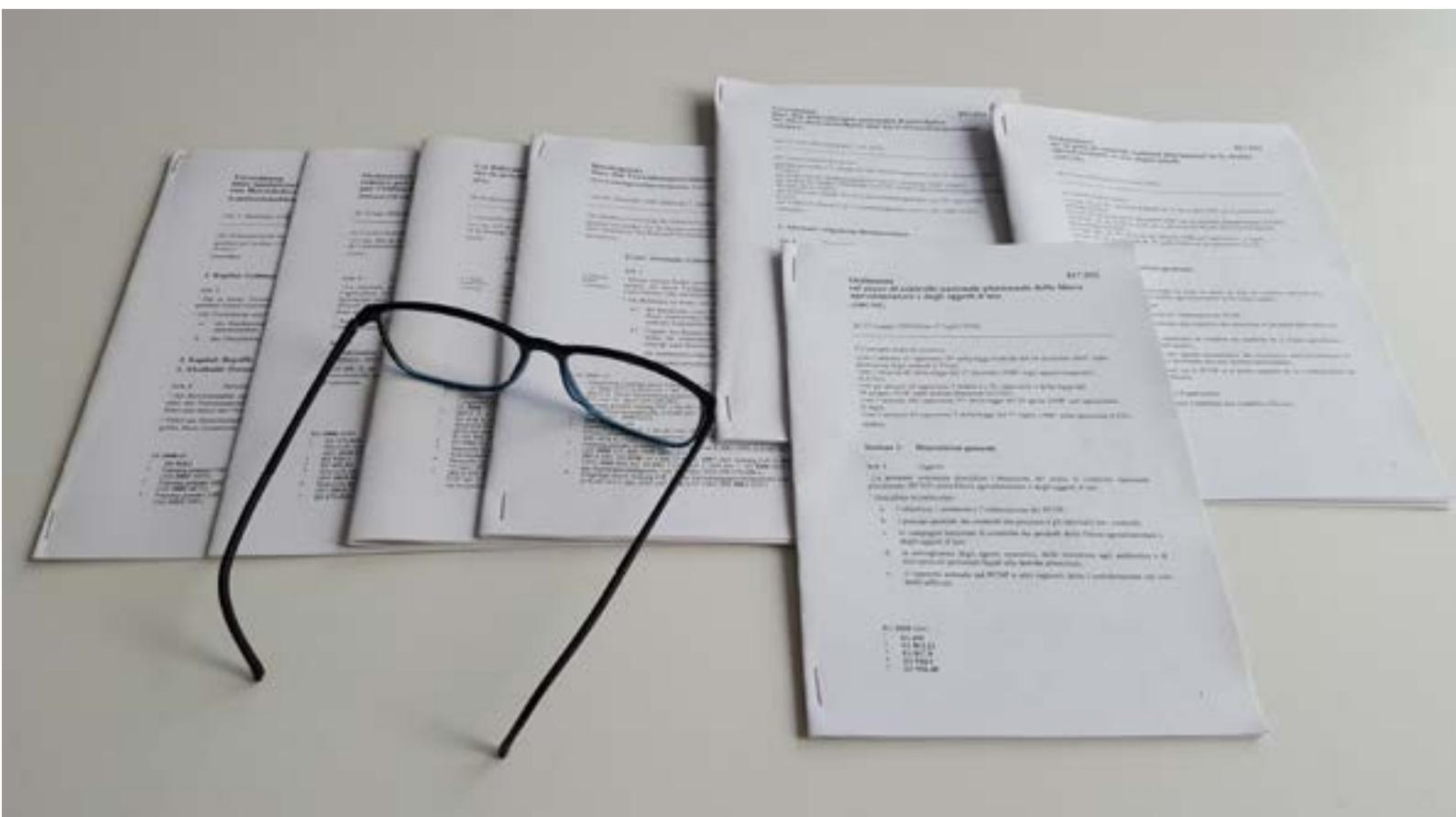


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6. Where can the legal framework be found for the Multiannual National Control Plan?

The legal framework can be found in the Swiss and European legislation under the following links:

- ▶ [Ordinance on the Multiannual National Control Plan for the Food Chain and Utility Articles \(MANCPO\)](#)
- ▶ [Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on Trade in Agricultural Products of 21 June 1999](#)
- ▶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations \(EC\) No 999/2001, \(EC\) No 396/2005, \(EC\) No 1069/2009, \(EC\) No 1107/2009, \(EU\) No 1151/2012, \(EU\) No 652/2014, \(EU\) 2016/429 and \(EU\) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations \(EC\) No 1/2005 and \(EC\) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations \(EC\) No 854/2004 and \(EC\) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC \(Official Controls Regulation\)](#)
- ▶ [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/723 laying down rules for the application of Regulation \(EU\) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the standard model form to be used in the annual reports submitted by Member States.](#)

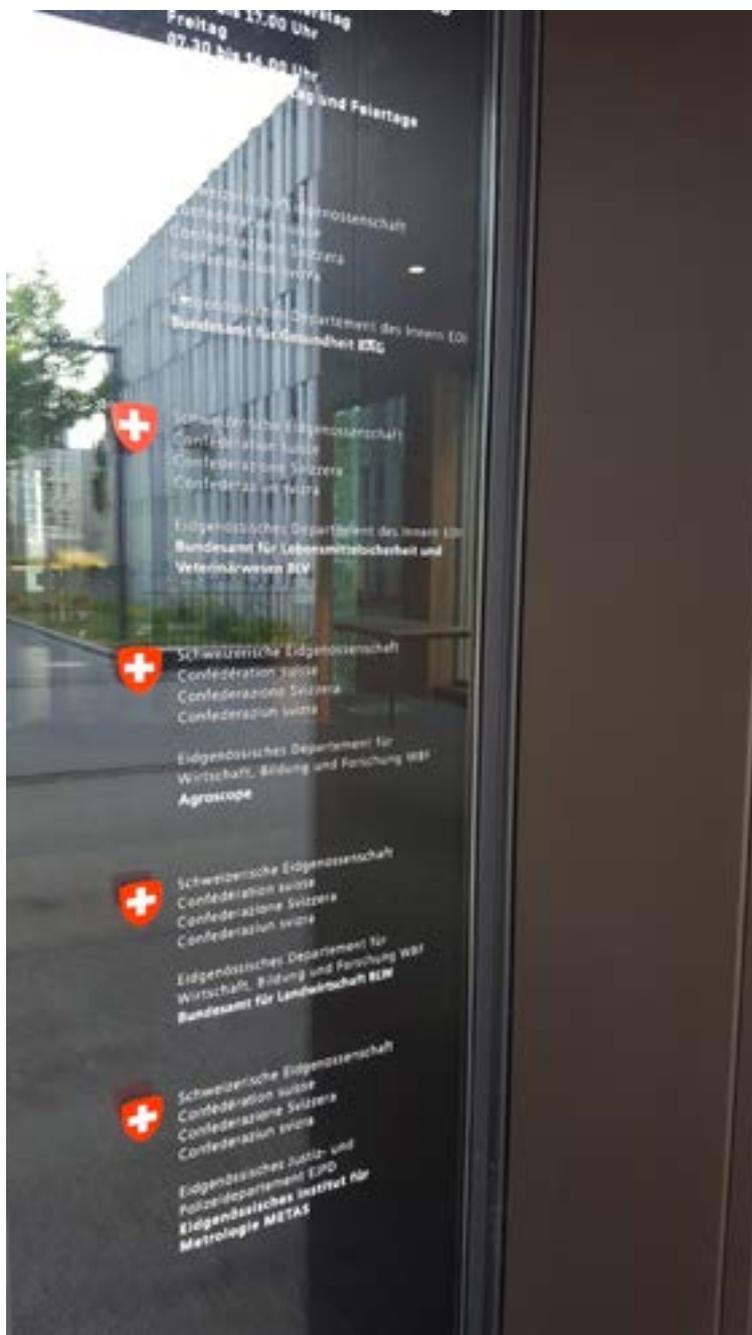


7. Who draws up the Multiannual National Control Plan?

The Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) for Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein is drawn up jointly by staff from the two federal offices involved in the food chain (Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO). The coordination and actual compilation of the plan are carried out by the Federal Food Chain Unit (FFCU) – a unit that reports directly to the two directors of the federal offices.

Background

Before a new MANCP is published, it is submitted for a hearing to the responsible cantonal implementation authorities (directors of cantonal agricultural offices, cantonal veterinarians and cantonal chemists) and the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security. The MANCP is updated annually. The update does not need to be submitted for a hearing.



8. Is the Multiannual National Control Plan accessible to the public?

The Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) is public.

Background

Anyone interested can view the MANCP. It can be found on the homepage of the Federal Food Chain Unit (FFCU) at www.blk.admin.ch and is available in German, French, Italian and English.

European countries have also posted their multiannual national control plans on the internet.

Examples:

- ▶ [Austria](#)
- ▶ [Denmark](#)
- ▶ [France](#)
- ▶ [Germany](#)
- ▶ [Ireland](#)
- ▶ [Italy](#)
- ▶ [Luxembourg](#)
- ▶ [Norway](#)
- ▶ [Poland](#)
- ▶ [Portugal](#)
- ▶ [Romania](#)
- ▶ [Spain](#)
- ▶ [Sweden](#)



Photo by USGS on Unsplash

9. Why does the validity period of the Multiannual National Control Plan vary?

The validity period of the Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) is decided by the conference of office directors and is usually the same length as a legislature period.

Background

The conference of office directors consists of the directors of the two federal offices involved in food safety (Federal Office of Agriculture FOAG, Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO) and the Head of the Federal Food Chain Unit. Since the period covered by the plan usually matches the legislature period and no MANCP was compiled before 2007, the period covered by the first plan was shorter so that subsequent plans would match the full legislature period

The 2010 - 2014 MANCP was extended by two years due to the delay in the LARGO project (food legislation) and the delay in the overall strategy along the food chain adopted in 2015.

The next MANCP (2017 - 2019) took into account the new legal requirements (total revision of food law) and the new strategic objectives along the food chain.

The 2020-2023 MANCP contained for the first time indicators for the strategic objectives along the food chain.

The current MANCP (2024-2027) lasts for the current legislative period.



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10. How up to date is the Multiannual National Control Plan?

The Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) is updated annually at the start of the next year. It is posted on the internet at www.blk.admin.ch.



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11. Are there development prospects for the Multiannual National Control Plan?

Yes, in addition to regular adaptation to changes in the context surrounding the Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP), the MANCP is constantly subject to re-

vision in order to create a more user-friendly and clearer structure.



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12. Is there information on the cantons in the Multiannual National Control Plan?

Yes. The Multiannual National Control Plan (MANCP) describes the organisation and structure of the official control system at federal and cantonal level in the fields of plant health, feed, animal health, animal welfare, food safety and utility articles. The appendix "Canton profiles" forms part of the MANCP; these profiles contain the detailed allocation of responsibilities and organisation of the cantonal offices.

Background

In addition to the organisational description, the canton profiles also contain statistical data on agriculture and food and links to the annual reports of those cantonal implementation authorities that publish their reports on the internet.



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13. What are the international titles of the Multiannual National Control Plan and under what titles can the MANCPs of neighbouring states be found?

The official English title is:
Multiannual National Control Plan or MANCP.

Switzerland's neighbouring states use the following titles:

- ▶ Austria: Mehrjähriger integrierter Kontrollplan - MIK
- ▶ France: Plan national de contrôles officiels pluriannuels - PNCOPA
- ▶ Germany: Mehrjähriger nationaler Kontrollplan - MNKP
- ▶ Italy: Piano nazionale integrato – PNI or MANCP



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