

Multiannual National Control Plan for the food chain and utility articles

Summary Annual report 2022

Switzerland




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Principality of Liechtenstein



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 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
**Federal Food Safety and
Veterinary Office FSVO**

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

For detailed information, see the MANCP Annual Report 2022 in German and French.

- ▶ The official inspections along the entire food chain in Switzerland are in general carried out in accordance with the specified legal provisions.
- ▶ The cockpit and the available indicators show a satisfactory overall picture of the Swiss system and no unusual trends can be identified for 2022.



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Based on the developed impact models, the following nine areas of the food chain were defined:

- ▶ plant health,
- ▶ hygiene in primary production,
- ▶ production resources,
- ▶ feedstuffs,
- ▶ animal welfare,
- ▶ animal health,
- ▶ veterinary medicinal products (VMPs),
- ▶ foodstuffs and utility articles,
- ▶ protected designations.

There is an aggregated indicator («steering bar») for each area. The steering bars for 2022 indicate that the overall strategy defined along the food chain is mostly on track.

The individual indicators along the food chain are evaluated in the following tables:

Indicator no 1: Percentage of compliant establishments along the food chain

Area	Number of compliant establishments/ inspections	Number of evaluated establishments/ inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
Plant health	648	673	96.3	85	
Production resources*	259	267	97	85	
Feed	274	343	79.9	85	
Animal welfare	11,843	14,972	79.2	85	
Animal health	9,102	9,941	91.6	85	
VMP	5,753	9,889	58.2	85	
Hygiene plant PrP**	4,537	4,687	96.8	85	
<i>General requirements</i>	2,372	2,394	99.1	85	
<i>PPPs and biocides</i>	2,165	2,293	94.4	85	
Hygiene animal PrP	8,907	9,549	93.2	85	
Hygiene PrP milk hygiene	3,277	5,199	63.0	85	
Foodstuffs and utility articles	25,230	28,432	88.7	85	

* Manufacturers of compost and digestates

** Farms with an open arable area exceeding 5 hectares or with more than 50 ares of special crops (according to MANCPO Annex 1, List 1, primary production farms)


Indicator no 2: Compliance rate of primary products of plant origin from Switzerland

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
13	799	98.4	99	





Indicator no 3: Compliance rate of animal feedstuffs

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
20	2,963	99.33	95	


Indicator no 4: Compliance rate for official inspections of animals for slaughter

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
6,233	3,371,166	99.8	99	


Indicator no 5: Compliance rate for official samples of tested foods of animal origin

Area	Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
Meat	748	3,598	79.8	95	
Milk	262	1,976	86.8	95	
Eggs	6	497	99.8	95	
Total	1,016	6,071	83.3	95	


Indicator no 6: Compliance rate of selected unprocessed plant products on the Swiss market

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
37	1,922	96.52	99	




Indicator no 7: Compliance rate of food of animal origin from Switzerland (National Residue Testing Programme)

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
7	2,686	99.85	99.5	


Indicator no 8: Access to safe drinking water

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
124	39,344	99.68	99	 Arsenic: Number of inhabitants affected by elevated values < 0.1%

Indicator no 9: Compliance rate of samples checked by enforcement authorities with regard to statutory agricultural labelling


	Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
Organic	2,990	12,582	76.24	90	
PDO/PGI	60	1,442	95.83	90	
Mountain/Alpine	127	1,365	94.15	90	

Indicator no 10: Rate of prescriptions of antibiotics by veterinary practices as recorded in ISABV


Reporting rate (%)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
93.70	90	

Indicator no 11: RASFF reports concerning Switzerland


Indicator no 11-01: RASFF reports with reference to Swiss market

Swiss reports	Total reports	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
237	4,340	5.5	< 6	


Indicator no 11-02: RASFF reports for Swiss products

Swiss reports	Total reports	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
8	4,340	0.2	< 1	

Indicator no 12: Number of animal disease outbreaks reported immediately to the WOA

Swiss reports to WOA	Target value	Evaluation
3	0-2	

Indicator no 13: Incidence of campylobacteriosis per 100,000 inhabitants

Number of cases in Switzerland	Incidence per 100,000 inhabitants	Target value	Evaluation
7,682	87.5	<60	

The results show that most indicators are on track or that no urgent measures are required to achieve the strategic objectives.

Indicators no. 12 and no. 13 as well as the TAM domain of indicator no. 1 must remain under observation as they are far from the target value. If necessary, further measures must be taken.

Indicator no. 5 shows a negative trend, which is mainly due to the results in the meat and meat products sector and is well below the target value. However, violations have decreased in one product category (eggs). Indicator no. 5 must be monitored closely over the next few years and if the trend continues to be negative, measures may have to be taken.

A closer look at the individual sectors of the food chain yields the following information:



Japan beetle© Aline Knoblauch BAFU; BLW-OFAG-UFAG

Plant health / quarantine organisms

163 establishments were inspected during trade controls. These inspections detected 56 minor infringements and 25 more serious infringements. The latter involved 14 cases of plants supplied with non-compliant plant passports, 5 cases of goods purchased without an obligatory plant passport and 6 cases of non-compliance with the obligation to declare self-produced plants.

Regional surveillance is the responsibility of the Cantons. Two more organisms were added in regional surveillance in 2022 as compared with 2021. Accordingly in 2022, surveys were carried out in respect of 34 particularly dangerous harmful organisms. In 2022, 443 production establishments underwent at least one inspection in relation to plant passports. 210 samples were taken due to suspected infestation with a particularly dangerous harmful organism; in 42 cases the suspicion was confirmed in the laboratory. 8,592 freight consignments comprising 59,504 goods subject to control (part-consignments) underwent plant-health import inspections in 2022. 77 freight consignments of goods subject to control were deemed non-compliant, corresponding to 0.89 % of imported consignments.

Plant varieties and propagating material

Sampling and analysis of 22 imported seed batches were carried out in 2022 to ensure compliance with the requirements for quality (germination capacity and purity testing), labelling and sealing of seed. Two batches of soya seed were found to have too-high percentages of abnormal seedlings. The certification body was informed and, after a laboratory comparison of

germination capacity had been conducted, germination was tested in field trials. No other infringements were found regarding the requirements for the quality, labelling and sealing of seed. Seed surveillance for the presence of GMOs was carried out during 36 inspections. No samples tested positive for GMOs.



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Plant Protection Products (PPP)

The 2022 campaign (market surveillance of plant protection products) focused on such products containing the active substances dithianon, napropamide and spiroxamine. The relevant contaminants toluene and desethio-prothioconazole were also measured. 16 samples were collected, including 6 products with a sales authorisation. The infringements found were usually due to specific regulations having been overlooked by the distributor. Checks were carried out again in 2022 on the basis of sampling and laboratory analyses in order to verify compliance with the PEP (proof of ecological performance) requirements and other measures

of the Direct Payments Ordinance (DPO) in the area of plant protection products. A total of 151 samples were taken and analysed in the area of arable and special crops. The cases of non-compliance found relate solely to voluntary measures or contributions under the direct payment system. None of the 10 feedstuffs tested exceeded the maximum glyphosate content. 78 other feedstuffs were tested for pesticides. In conventional feedstuffs, two products were found to exceed maximum levels. The levels detected are not readily attributable to pesticide use but are probably explained by the «artificial drying» production process (incomplete combustion of heating agent/fuel).



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Fertilisers

267 composting and fermentation plants were inspected in 2022. 97 % of these plants were compliant. Since 2006, inspections have found increasing levels

of compliance in establishments. Compliance levels in inspected plants have been over 90 % with minimal fluctuation for the past five years.



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Feedstuffs

343 process controls were carried out in 324 establishments. 20.1 % of the establishments inspected were set a deadline to rectify deficiencies or asked to carry out other measures. In addition, 1,103 product controls were carried out. There were 53 serious cases of non-compliance (4.8 %). Any exceeding of permitted maximum levels in accordance with Annex 2 FsBO or any violation of Art. 7 FeedO is regarded as serious non-compliance on grounds of safety for humans, animals or the environment. Extremely high levels or recur-

rent cases are also classed as serious non-compliance. The percentage of compliant samples fell by 5.3 % compared to the previous year. In addition, 299 samples of feedstuffs for farm animals were tested for GMOs. GMOs were found in two samples. Both cases involved grain mixes for birds. Both mixes contained a raw material in which the percentage of non-authorised GMOs was over 0.5 %. Note that these GMOs are authorised in the EU.



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Animal health

Around 20% of all establishments in the areas of vet-erinary medicinal products, animal health and animal movements were inspected in 2022. The number of establishments showing deficiencies rose slightly as compared to 2021 in the areas of veterinary medicinal products and animal health.

405,543 investigations for 69 animal diseases/zoonoses were carried out in the recognised laboratories. 1,163 animal disease reports were registered. In 2022, the number of cases of BVD reported throughout Switzerland was, slightly higher than in the previous year (81 cases). However, the higher case numbers should still be seen in connection with the major BVD outbreak in eastern Switzerland in the second half of 2021 (secondary infections). Thanks to the measures taken in 2022, BVD case numbers are now falling sharply again. At the time of publication, 127 establishments across Switzerland are still under BVD restrictions. 99.6% of cattle farms are BVD-free. All measures to control avian influenza (AI) were lifted at the end of March, bringing the AI episode of the winter of 2021/22 to an end.

The disease returned in early winter 2022. Following an outbreak in a private animal facility in Zurich canton in November, the FSVO ordered nationwide protective measures in consultation with the cantons to prevent any further spread of the disease. The measures applied to both livestock farms and hobby holdings until 30 April 2023. There was no indication that the virus was transmissible to humans. The volumes of antibiotic sales also decreased in 2021. After only a very small decline in 2017 and 2018 compared to previous years, the year-on-year decrease in 2021 was similar to that seen in 2020. This decrease is mainly due to a fall in sales of pharmaceutical premixtures and other oral preparations. The 2021 data in «indicator – *E. coli* in veal calves» show a continuous decline in resistance in all antibiotic classes since 2017. In fattening pigs, we have not seen a significant increase in resistance in the various antibiotic classes, but an increase has been identified – albeit a small one – in resistance rates in most antibiotic classes.



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Animal protection

14,353 livestock farms underwent basic inspections for compliance with animal welfare legislation. This corresponds to 22.7 % of farms subject to the requirements

of the MANCP Ordinance. In the basic inspections, deficiencies were found on 16.9 % of farms, a figure slightly higher than in the previous two years.



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Foodstuffs and utility articles

In the area of hygiene in animal primary production, the proportion of farms with deficiencies this year is 6.37 %, only slightly higher than the corresponding figure for 2021 (6.2 %). At 37.9 %, the percentage of farms showing deficiencies in milk hygiene this year is slightly higher than the 2021 figure (35.7 %). During inspections in the area of hygiene in plant primary production, deficiencies were found in 0.9–9.1 % of the farms inspected – depending on the category in Acontrol. As in previous years, the vast majority of deficiencies concerned the registration and proper use of plant protection products (category B, e.g. failure to register herbicide treatments per plant or harvest dates, improper storage of plant protection products or disposal of unused products).

For milk testing, comparison of the 2021 and 2022 data shows a decrease in the number of milk samples analysed. This is due to a decline in the number of dairies. The percentage of samples above the non-compliance threshold is slightly higher than in the previous year for all three criteria, but comparable to the average values over the last three years. The same applies to the number of milk distribution bans. No specific measures need to be taken at present.

There was no major variation in the fitness for consumption of whole carcasses compared to 2021 and no special measures had to be taken. Of the samples collected as part of the national residue testing programme, four (0.15%) were found to be non-compliant. The non-compliance rate is therefore lower than in previous years.

In relation to risk-based process controls of processed foodstuffs and utility articles in 2022, the FSVO received the results of 28,432 inspections carried out by the cantonal food enforcement authorities (data from

20 cantons and the Principality of Liechtenstein). Due to the changeover to the new ARES information system, the data for 2022 cannot be compared with that of previous years. For product analysis of processed foodstuffs and utility articles by the cantonal enforcement authorities there is an exhaustive table in the German and French versions of this document. In addition, no data are available for 2022 regarding genetically modified organisms in foodstuffs.

Border veterinary checks on imports of foodstuffs of animal origin were all compliant. As part of the import controls on foodstuffs and utility articles, 496 samples of foodstuffs and utility articles were collected by the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (FOCBS) and analysed by the cantonal food inspection authorities. Based on the results of the border inspection programmes, we can expect to see continuing high non-compliance rates due to pesticide residues in Asian fruits and vegetables (27% of the average of both campaigns). A total of 791,717 kg of beef that may have been produced using hormonal growth promoters was imported – 8,433 kg more than in 2021. The inspections showed that companies comply with the regulations and no «hormone-treated» meat was exported to the EU. As part of the national campaigns, the cantonal chemists collected over 200 samples of fruit salads in 2022 to check their microbiological quality and for the possible presence of bacteria that might pose a health risk. Ten products, i.e. 5 % of the samples, were contaminated with bacteria. In another campaign, oil-containing foodstuffs in glass containers were tested for contamination by plasticisers from the lid seals. In around a quarter of the samples with PVC lid seals, plasticiser levels in the foodstuffs were so high that the foodstuffs had to be rejected as non-compliant.



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Statutory agricultural labelling

The inspection bodies carried out 12,582 organic inspections, identifying specific irregularities and infringements in 2,990 cases. Irregularities and infringements of the organic farming regulations have an impact on direct payments. All of the private organic control bodies (CBs) in Switzerland were monitored by the FOAG pursuant to Art. 32 and 33 of the Organic Ordinance. The certification bodies inspected 1,442 farms and 761 processing plants in accordance with PDO/PGI regulations. Of the 60 serious instances of non-compliance identified, 7 led to withdrawal or refusal of the certificate.

The certification bodies carried out 1,590 inspections in accordance with Mountain/Alpine regulations. 93 inspections found non-compliance. The FOAG audited

the control bodies as part of its overall supervisory role in the PDO/PGI and Mountain/Alpine areas. The main focal areas were the testing of end products, verification of inspection manuals and certificate withdrawals, inspection of primary production and compliance with the milk processing deadline for cheese. The cantons found only a few deficiencies during grape harvest inspections. There were a number of declassifications, some administrative measures (follow-up inspection, calibration of scales) and six notifications (data delivered after the deadline). In the 2022 reporting year, the wine trade inspectorate found serious deficiencies in only four cases out of a total of 1,065 inspections carried out. This corresponds to 0.3 % of the total number of inspections (2021: 0.1 %).



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Others

In 2022, 9 public warnings were issued in Switzerland for foodstuffs (2021:18) and 0 for utility articles (2021:2); in addition, there were at least 51 recalls for foodstuffs (2021:65) and 15 for utility articles (2021:13).

Switzerland was not audited by the EU in the reporting year. However, inspections by a third country did take place (USA – routine inspections by the US Food and Drug Administration of monitored companies that

manufacture, process, pack or otherwise handle, store or despatch food destined for the United States).

National monitoring by the FFCU dealt with the following topics: «Animal welfare and meat inspection in slaughterhouses for poultry and rabbits» (ongoing programme); «Plant health controls» (ongoing programme); «Export to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)» (completed programme) and «Food fraud» (completed programme).



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