

# Multiannual National Control Plan for the food chain and utility articles

## Summary Annual report 2023

### 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 2023 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 2023.
















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

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

There is an aggregated indicator («steering bar») for each area. The steering bars 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	751	774	97	85	
Production resources*	249	259	96.1	85	
Feed	301	367	82	85	
Animal welfare**	10,788	13,971	77.2	85	
Animal health**	8,938	9,787	91.3	85	
Animal traffic**	6,717	10,049	66.8		
VMP**	6,100	9,700	62	85	
Hygiene plant PrP***	3,974	4,113	96.6	85	
General requirements	2,069	2,089	99	85	
PPPs and biocides	1,905	2,024	94.1	85	
Hygiene animal PrP	8,397	8,953	93.7	85	
Hygiene PrP milk hygiene	2,779	4,303	64.6	85	
Foodstuffs and utility articles	36,561	42,065	86.9	85	

\* Manufacturers of compost and digestates


\*\* incl. follow-up controls and intermediate controls

\*\*\* 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
18	901	98	99	





Indicator no 3: Compliance rate of animal feedstuffs

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
7	3,942	99.82	95	


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

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
6,662	3,340,463	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	793	4,012	80.2	95	
Milk	216	1,623	86.6	95	
Eggs	8	346	97.7	95	
Total	1,017	5,981	83	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
41	926	95.6	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
3	2,990	99.9	99.5	


Indicator no 8: Access to safe drinking water

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
3	5,917	0.13	99	 Arsenic: Number of inhabitants affected by elevated values < 0.1% No aRes data on PPP metabolites / PPPs in drinking water in 2023

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	3,074	12,621	75.6	90	
PDO/PGI	46	2,436	98.1	90	
Mountain/Alpine	194	1,759	89	90	


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

Reporting rate (%)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
92.9	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
232	4,684	5	< 6	


## Indicator no 11-02: RASFF reports for Swiss products

Swiss reports	Total reports	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
10	4,684	0,4	< 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
6,888	75.5	<60	

The results indicate that most indicators are on track or do not require urgent measures to achieve the strategic objectives.

However, indicators no. 5, no. 12 and no. 13, along with the animal traffic and VMP area of indicator no. 1, need to be closely monitored as they are remarkably above or below the target value.

It should also be noted that no data from the cantons regarding PPP controls in drinking water were submitted in 2023. Therefore, indicator no. 8 only reflects the other criteria considered for evaluation. If necessary, further measures must 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**

241 establishments were inspected during trade controls. These inspections detected 51 minor infringements and 16 more serious infringements. The latter involved 8 cases of plants supplied with non-compliant plant passports, 3 cases of goods purchased without an obligatory plant passport, 3 cases of non-compliance with the obligation to declare self-produced plants and 2 cases of failure to ensure traceability. Regional surveillance is the responsibility of the Cantons. In 2023, 36 particularly dangerous harmful organisms were taken into account for regional surveillance. In 2023, 461 production establishments underwent at least one inspection in relation to plant passports. 191 samples were taken due to suspected infestation with a particularly dangerous harmful organism; in 43 cases the suspicion was confirmed in the laboratory. 8,487 freight consignments comprising 58,022 goods subject to control (part-consignments) underwent plant-health import inspections in 2023. 61 freight consignments of goods subject to control were deemed non-compliant, corresponding to 0.72% of imported consignments.

### **Plant varieties and propagating material**

Sampling and analysis of 19 imported seed batches (9 soya and 10 maize seed batches) were carried out in 2023 to ensure compliance with the requirements for quality (germination capacity and purity testing), labelling and sealing of seed. No violations were found.

The analyses of imported seed for the presence of GMOs in 2023 were carried out on a total of 42 samples (11 maize, 3 rapeseed, 13 soya beans, 3 beet lots and 12 alfalfa / agrostis). One batch of soya beans (edamame) was classified as non-compliant and withdrawn from the market.



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### Plant Protection Products (PPP)

The 2023 campaign for market surveillance of plant protection products focused on those containing the active substances azoxystrobin, bentazone, bixafen and fluroxypyr. A total of 17 samples were collected, including one parallel import product. The regulations are very extensive and complex and infringements found were usually due to specific regulations being overlooked by the distributor. Checks were carried out again in 2023 using 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 502 samples were taken from crops and analysed. Non-compliances were identified in 57 samples (11% of cases), mainly violations of the requirements for the produc-

tion system contributions for not using plant protection products (in accordance with Art. 68-71a DPO). The remaining complaints related to compliance with the PEP or organic requirements. In one case (vines), the detected active substance was not authorised in Switzerland. Based on the information provided by the cantons to Acontrol, direct payments were reduced in 45 cases, totaling CHF 118,312. Among these cases, arable crops were the most severely affected. The maximum glyphosate content was not exceeded in any of the 11 feedstuffs analyzed. Additionally, 84 other feedstuffs were analyzed for other pesticides, with one maximum level exceeded in conventional animal feed. This detected content is likely attributed to the production process "artificial drying" (incomplete combustion of the heating agent/fuel) rather than the use of pesticides.



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### Fertilisers

259 composting and fermentation plants were inspected in 2023. 96.1% 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**

367 process controls (inspections) were carried out in 340 establishments. 18% of the establishments inspected were set a deadline to rectify deficiencies or asked to carry out other measures. In addition, 1,125 product controls were carried out. There were 34 serious cases of non-compliance (3%). Any exceeding of permitted maximum levels in accordance with Annex 2 FsBO or any violation of Art. 7 FeedO is regarded as se-

rious non-compliance on grounds of safety for humans, animals or the environment. Extremely high levels or recurrent cases are also classed as serious non-compliance. The percentage of compliant samples increased by 7.1% compared to the previous year. In addition, 331 samples of feedstuffs for farm animals were tested for GMOs. Authorised GMOs that were not labelled were detected in 1 sample.



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## Animal health

In 2023, approximately 22% of all establishments in the areas of veterinary medicinal products, animal health, and animal movements were inspected. Recognized laboratories conducted 361,031 investigations for 69 animal diseases/zoonoses, registering 1,492 animal disease reports. Throughout Switzerland, 34 BVD (bovine viral diarrhoea) cases were reported, and by the end of December 2023, 73 farms were under BVD restrictions. The proportion of BVD-free cattle farms stands at 99.8%. Protective measures were implemented across Switzerland in winter 2022/23 to contain the avian influenza virus. For the first time in Switzerland and Europe, winter colonies of Laridae (gulls) were severely affected by the bird flu virus. As these species also breed in Switzerland, the winter measures were extended until the end of May. On 27 May, the FSVO lifted the national protective measures and issued an ordinance allowing cantons to take localized measures in the event of local outbreaks among wild birds. Avian influenza subsequently occurred in the cantons of Zurich, St. Gallen, Thurgau, and Vaud in breeding areas of black-headed gulls. The FSVO extended the current ordinance until 15 October 2023 as the spread to domestic poultry could not be ruled out. The first case of

avian influenza of winter 2023/24 was detected on 28 December 2023 in a swan found dead in the canton of Zurich. Due to the few HPAI cases in wild birds in eastern Switzerland, only local measures were taken, including a 1 km control zone and a 3 km observation zone around the location where the case was found. The quantity of antibiotics sold decreased in 2022, with a 12% reduction compared to the previous year. This decrease is mainly due to a decline in sales of drug premixes and other oral preparations. Since 2015, the consumption of critical antibiotics (3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, macrolides, and fluoroquinolones) has fallen by more than half. The results of the 2023 monitoring will be published following the release of the combined IS ABV and ArchVet report in early autumn 2024. Data from 2023 on *E. coli* in veal calves show a continuous decline in resistance in almost all antibiotic classes since 2017. There has also been a steady decline in resistance rates in fattening pigs, with minimal changes in fattening calves. MRSA (methicillin-resistant *S. aureus*) is regularly detected in pigs, cattle, and horses, with detection rates in pigs showing a plateau at a prevalence of 53%, despite a previously recorded increase.



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**Animal protection**

In 2023, 13,971 farms were inspected in the area of animal welfare, with 10,746 of these undergoing a basic control. This represents around a quarter (26.5%) of agricultural livestock holdings with at least three livestock units subject to basic control, consistent with the last two years. Enforcement authorities reported that approximately 53% of the controls were unannounced, maintaining a similar proportion to the previous year (+3%). About 84% of other controls (follow-up, intermediate, amended, or sudden control)

were unannounced. This resulted in 60% of all animal welfare controls being unannounced, meeting the requirements of Art. 13 MNCPO, which mandates that 20% of all basic controls and 40% of all animal welfare controls must be unannounced, effective from 1 January 2021. During the basic controls, deficiencies were recorded in 15.6% of establishments, a decrease from the previous year (16.9%) but still higher than in the 2019-2021 period (2019: 13.9%, 2020: 13.5%, 2021: 14.8%).



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### Foodstuffs and utility articles

In 2023, the proportion of farms with deficiencies in hygiene in animal primary production was 6.21%, similar to the 2022 figure of 6.37%. In milk hygiene, 35.4% of farms showed deficiencies, a slight decrease from 37.9% in 2022. Inspections in hygiene in plant primary production revealed deficiencies in 0.7% to 7.9% of farms, depending on the category in Acontrol (category A: General requirements and category B: Plant protection products and biocides). Most deficiencies were minor, such as unregistered vine treatments with herbicides, unnoted harvest dates, or improper storage of plant protection products. Milk test samples from Switzerland, excluding those from France (zone milk) and Liechtenstein, showed a decrease in the number of samples analyzed in 2023 compared to 2022, primarily due to the decline in the number of milk production farms. Although suspensions due to repeated exceedance of the bacterial count slightly increased, the percentage of samples above the objection limit for all three criteria was slightly lower than the previous year. The fitness for consumption of whole carcasses remained stable compared to 2022, with no special measures required. Of the samples collected as part of the national residue testing program, three (0.1%) were found to be non-compliant, slightly lower than in previous years. In 2023, the FSVO received results from 42,996 risk-based establishment inspections (process controls of processed foodstuffs and utility articles) carried out by the cantonal food enforcement authorities (data from 25 cantons and Liechtenstein). Due to the transition to the new ARES information system, the 2022 and 2023 data cannot be compared with previous years. Data for product controls of processed

foodstuffs and utility articles by cantonal enforcement authorities are listed in the German and French annual report. Data for genetically modified organisms in foodstuffs for 2023 were unavailable at the time of the report.

Border veterinary checks on imports of foodstuffs of animal origin were all compliant. As part of the import controls on foodstuffs and utility articles, 396 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. From the results of the border control programmes, it can be concluded that, depending on the matrix, high complaint rates due to pesticide residues can still be expected. A total of 726,827 kg of beef potentially produced using hormonal growth promoters was imported, 63,598 kg less than in 2022. Inspections confirmed compliance with regulations, with no «hormone-treated» meat exported to the EU. In 2023, during the national campaigns, the cantonal chemists (VKCS) analyzed 564 drinking water samples from across Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, covering the drinking water supply of around 70% of the Swiss population. The currently applicable TBDV maximum values for PFAS were not exceeded in any sample. Drinking water from groundwater showed slightly higher PFAS levels than surface water, consistent with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) groundwater analyses. The VKCS also conducted a national inspection campaign on frying oil quality in various food businesses. Of the 1,223 deep-fat fryers inspected, 104 (8.5%) oils were found to be faulty. In 339 (27.7%) establishments, there were no regulations on the correct handling of frying oil.



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**Statutory agricultural labelling**

The inspection bodies carried out 12,621 organic inspections, identifying specific irregularities and infringements in 3,074 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 1,598 farms and 755 processing plants in accordance with PDO/PGI regulations. Of the 46 serious instances of non-compliance identified, 4 led to withdrawal or refusal of the certificate. The certification bodies carried out 1,759 inspections in accordance with Mountain/Alpine regulations. 194 inspections found non-compliance. The FOAG audited the control bodies as part of its overall superviso-

ry role in the PDO/PGI and Mountain/Alpine areas. For PDOs/PGIs, the focus was on the products Poire à Botzi AOP, Huile de Noix vaudoise AOP, Jambon de la Borne AOP and Boutefas AOP. The main topics for Mountain/Alpine were the implementation of the sanction regulations PT (processing and trade) and the inspection of composite products. The cantons found only a few deficiencies during grape harvest inspections. There were 18 declassifications, 9 administrative measures (follow-up inspection, calibration of scales) and 8 notifications (data delivered after the deadline). In the 2023 reporting year, the wine trade inspectorate found serious deficiencies in only 18 cases out of a total of 1,267 inspections carried out. This corresponds to 1.4 % of the total number of inspections (2022: 0.3 %).



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**Others**

In 2023, 17 public warnings were issued in Switzerland for foodstuffs (2022:9) and 3 for utility articles (2022:0); in addition, there were at least 73 recalls for foodstuffs (2022:51) and 22 for utility articles (2022:15).

Switzerland was not audited by the EU in the reporting year. However, inspections by a third country did take place (Canada - milk and dairy products).

National monitoring by the FFCU dealt with the following topics: «Analysis of the measures taken in animal welfare and meat inspection in slaughterhouses for ruminants and pigs» (ongoing programme); «Analysis of the monitoring of the legal requirements for feed additives and premixtures by enforcement» (ongoing programme); «Analysis of the monitoring of legal requirements by law enforcement in relation to commodities» (ongoing programme); «Animal welfare and meat inspection in poultry and rabbit slaughterhouses» (completed programme); «Plant passport system plant inspections» (completed programme) and «New distribution channels in the food chain» (completed programme).



Photo by Scott Graham on unsplash



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