Multiannual National Control Plan

for the food chain and utility articles

Summary Annual report 2024

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 2024 in German.

- **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.**
- **However, a significant deterioration in indicator no. 8 (Conformity rate of drinking water samples in product controls) is worth mentioning as it no longer meets the defined target value. This is due to the search for plant protection product metabolites. Chlorothalonil and S-metolachlor in particular were found in several analysed samples.**

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	565	595	95	85	
Production resources*	266	276	96.4	85	
Feed	279	372	75	85	
Animal welfare**	11,072	14,254	77.7	85	
Animal health**	9,167	9,994	91.7	85	
Animal traffic**	7,052	10,236	68.9	85	
VMP**	6,212	9,750	63.7	85	
Hygiene plant PrP***- General requirements	1,965	1,976	99.4	85	
Hygiene plant PrP***- PPPs and biocides	1,828	1,909	95.8	85	
Hygiene animal PrP	9,087	9,645	94.2	85	
Hygiene PrP milk hygiene	3,033	4,755	63.8	85	
Foodstuffs and utility articles	34,011	38,713	87.9	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
9	807	98.9	99	

Indicator no 3: Compliance rate of animal feedstuffs

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
8	3,291	99.80	95	

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

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
6,169	3,218,463	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	564	3,238	82.6	95	
Milk	209	1,668	87.5	95	
Eggs	18	502	96.5	95	
Total	791	5,408	85.4	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
16	819	98.1	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
8	4,501	99.8	99.5	

Indicator no 8: Conformity rate of drinking water samples in product controls

Number NC	Number of inspections	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
1‘437	18,845	92.4	99	Arsenic: Number of inhabitants affected by elevated values < 0.1% 2024: analysis on PPP metabolites / PPPs in drinking water

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	2,583	12,684	79.6	90	
PDO/PGI	45	1,926	97.7	90	
Mountain/Alpine	113	1,815	93.7	90	

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

Reporting rate (%)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
94.1	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
234	5,254	4.5	< 6	

Indicator no 11-02: RASFF reports for Swiss products

Swiss reports	Total reports	Value (in %)	Target value (in %)	Evaluation
14	5,254	0.3	< 1	

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

Swiss reports to WOAH	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
8,238	91.5	<60	

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

Only indicators no. 8 (Conformity rate of drinking water samples in product controls), no. 12 (Number of animal disease outbreaks reported immediately to the WOAH) and no. 13 (Incidence of campylobacteriosis per 100,000 inhabitants), along with the animal traffic and VMP area of indicator no. 1 (Percentage of compliant establishments along the food chain) need to be monitored as they deviate from the target value.

The significantly poorer value for indicator no. 8, which is a long way off the target value, is due to the testing for plant protection product metabolites, in particular the occurrence of chlorothalonil and S-metolachlor in several analysed samples. This is because tests for plant protection product metabolites were conducted in 2024.

Indicator no. 13 reflects a marked deterioration and is comparable to the 2018 value. Fluctuations can be observed between the individual years, which indicates that the measures implemented in this area such as campaigns to sensitise consumers or the introduction of more stringent legal bases have not yet produced the desired results.

Although the animal traffic area and the VMP sector of indicator no. 1 (Percentage of compliant establishments along the food chain) have been a long way off the target value for several years, no measures are currently being implemented, as this low value is due to the fact that all instances of non-compliance, including minor ones, are factored into the indicator evaluation.

The changes for the other evaluated indicators fall within a range of -3% and +3%.

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

Plant health / quarantine organisms

66 establishments were inspected during trade controls in 2024. These inspections detected 47 minor infringements and 10 more serious infringements. Multiple infringements were ascertained at several establishments. These involved 5 cases of plants supplied with non-compliant plant passports and 5 cases of goods purchased without an obligatory plant passport. Regional surveillance is the responsibility of the cantons. In 2024, 36 particularly dangerous harmful organisms were taken into account for regional surveillance. In 2024, 450 production establishments underwent at least one inspection in relation to plant passports. A total of 529 inspections were conducted. The Jordan virus was not detected in any of the samples. Moreover, 151 samples were tested for the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* at 85 establishments. These tests were all negative. Furthermore, 243 samples suspected of being contaminated with a highly dangerous harmful organism were taken during production inspections. All 67 samples suspected of contamination with quarantine organisms were negative. The 176 samples suspected of contamination with regulated non-quarantine organisms resulted in 54 positive samples. 8,971 freight consignments comprising 58,700 goods subject to control (part-consignments) underwent plant-health import inspections in 2024. 50 freight consignments of goods subject to control were deemed non-compliant, corresponding to 0.60% of the imported freight consignments.

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

Plant varieties and propagating material

In 2024, sampling of 13 imported seed batches (8 maize, 2 sugar beet, 3 rapeseed seeds) and analysis were carried out in order to ensure compliance with the requirements for quality (germination capacity and purity testing), labelling and sealing of seed. No violations were found.

In 2024, a total of 25 samples of imported seed were inspected for GMOs (9 maize, 3 rapeseed, 3 soya beans, 3 beetroot and 7 alfalfa / agrostis). No sample tested positive for GMOs. All were deemed to be compliant.

Plant Protection Products (PPP)

The 2024 campaign for market surveillance of plant protection products focused on those containing the active ingredients 2-4-D kresoxim methyl and fenhexamide. A total of 18 samples were collected, including one parallel import product. The regulations are very extensive and complex. The infringements found were usually due to specific regulations having been overlooked by the distributor. Checks were carried out again in 2024 using sampling and laboratory analyses in order to verify compliance with the PEP (proof of ecological performance) requirements and the Direct Payments Ordinance (DPO) relating to the renunciation of plant protection products. A total of 486 samples from cultures were collected and analysed. Non-compliance was ascertained in 29 samples (approx. 6% of the cases).

These include 6 cases of administrative complaints (no special permits or missing documentation). 12 cases involved violations of the requirements for production-system payments relating to the renunciation of plant protection products (pursuant to Art. 68-71a DPO). The other 11 complaints involved proven ingredients that are not permitted in Switzerland (violation of the Plant Protection Products Ordinance Plant-PPO) and PEP requirements). 7 of these cases involved a relatively small area, as the reduction was set at less than CHF 200. The total direct payment reductions amounted to CHF 66,543. The maximum glyphosate content was not exceeded in any of the five feedstuffs analysed. 92 other feedstuffs were analysed for other pesticides, but the maximum content was not exceeded in any of them. The intervention value for one pesticide (0,01 mg/kg) was exceeded in three organic products.

Fertilisers

276 composting and fermentation plants were inspected in 2024. 96.2% of the plants were compliant.

Since 2006, inspections have found increasing levels of compliance in establishments. Conformity levels at inspected facilities have been over 90% with minimal fluctuation for the past five years.

Feedstuffs

372 process controls (inspections) were carried out in 345 establishments. 25% of the establishments inspected were set a deadline to rectify deficiencies or asked to carry out other measures. In addition, 1,090 product controls were carried out. There were 33 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 serious 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.

Compared with the previous year (2023), the compliance percentage declined from 72.1% to 67.5% (2021: 70.3%, 2022: 65.0%). Even if the percentage of compliant samples has fallen by 4.6% compared with 2023, it is still within the expected range (average percentage of compliant samples over the past 8 years (66.1% +/- 4.0%)). The lower compliance ratio was a result of the increase in the minor non-conformities (2024: 5.0%; 2023: 4.4%; 2022: 6.0%) and average non-conformities (2024: 24.5%; 2023: 20.4%; 2022: 24.2 %); the serious non-conformities remain stable, however (2024: 3.0%; 2023: 3.0%; 2022: 4.8%). Finally, 324 samples of feedstuffs for farm animals were tested for GMOs. All samples were compliant.

Animal health

In 2024, approximately 22% of all establishments in the areas of veterinary medicinal products, animal health, and animal movements were inspected.

Recognised laboratories conducted 371,005 investigations for 69 animal diseases/zoonoses, registering 4,765 animal disease reports. The last stage of the BVD eradication programme was launched on 1 November 2024. Thanks to a costly national eradication programme, BVD has been virtually eliminated. On the basis of a renewed disease-free status for bluetongue disease of serotypes 1-24 in the 2023 surveillance programme, the FSVO Ordinance of 10 November 2017 on Measures to Prevent the Spread of Bluetongue Disease (SR 916.401.348.2) was lifted on 12 July 2024. A few weeks later, in August 2024 and for the first time since 2020, a new case of bluetongue disease was confirmed in Switzerland (canton of Vaud). Other cases of bluetongue disease with serotypes 3 and 8 followed in other cantons. On 18 October 2024, the FSVO – in consultation with the regulatory authority Swissmedic – issued a general ruling permitting certain non-approved BTV-3 vaccines to be placed on the market. Three cases of the avian influenza virus, which had established a firm foothold in Europe, were detected in Switzerland in 2024. As a reaction to this, on 13 December 2024 the FSVO issued an Ordinance on Measures to Prevent the Spread of Avian Influenza, which was to remain in force until 31 March 2025. The main aim remains to prevent contact between wild birds and domestic poultry.

The results of the monitoring of antibiotics sales in 2024 will be published in early autumn 2025 in the combined IS ABV and ArchVet report. The figures for 2023 will be listed in the following MANCP Annual Report. The quantity of antibiotics sold decreased once again in 2023. After only minor declines were reported between 2017 and 2021 compared to previous years, the 12% decline in 2022 compared to 2021 was much greater. This fall is due mainly to a decline in sales of pharmaceutical premixtures and other oral preparations. The decline in 2023 was lower again. Data from 2023 on *E. coli* in veal calves show a continuous decline in resistance in almost all antibiotic classes since 2017. There has not been any significant increase in resistance rates in fattening pigs in the various antibiotics classes, but the resistance rate seems to be remaining stable. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is detected in humans and many livestock and domestic animals. *S. aureus* is one of the normal contaminants of the skin and mucous membranes. The particular characteristic of MRSA is its resistance to a large group of antibiotics (beta-lactamase antibiotics), which includes penicillin and cephalosporins. MRSA is regularly detected in pigs, cattle and horses. An increase in detection rates is being seen in pigs. However, it seems to have slowed and reached a plateau at 53%.

Animal protection

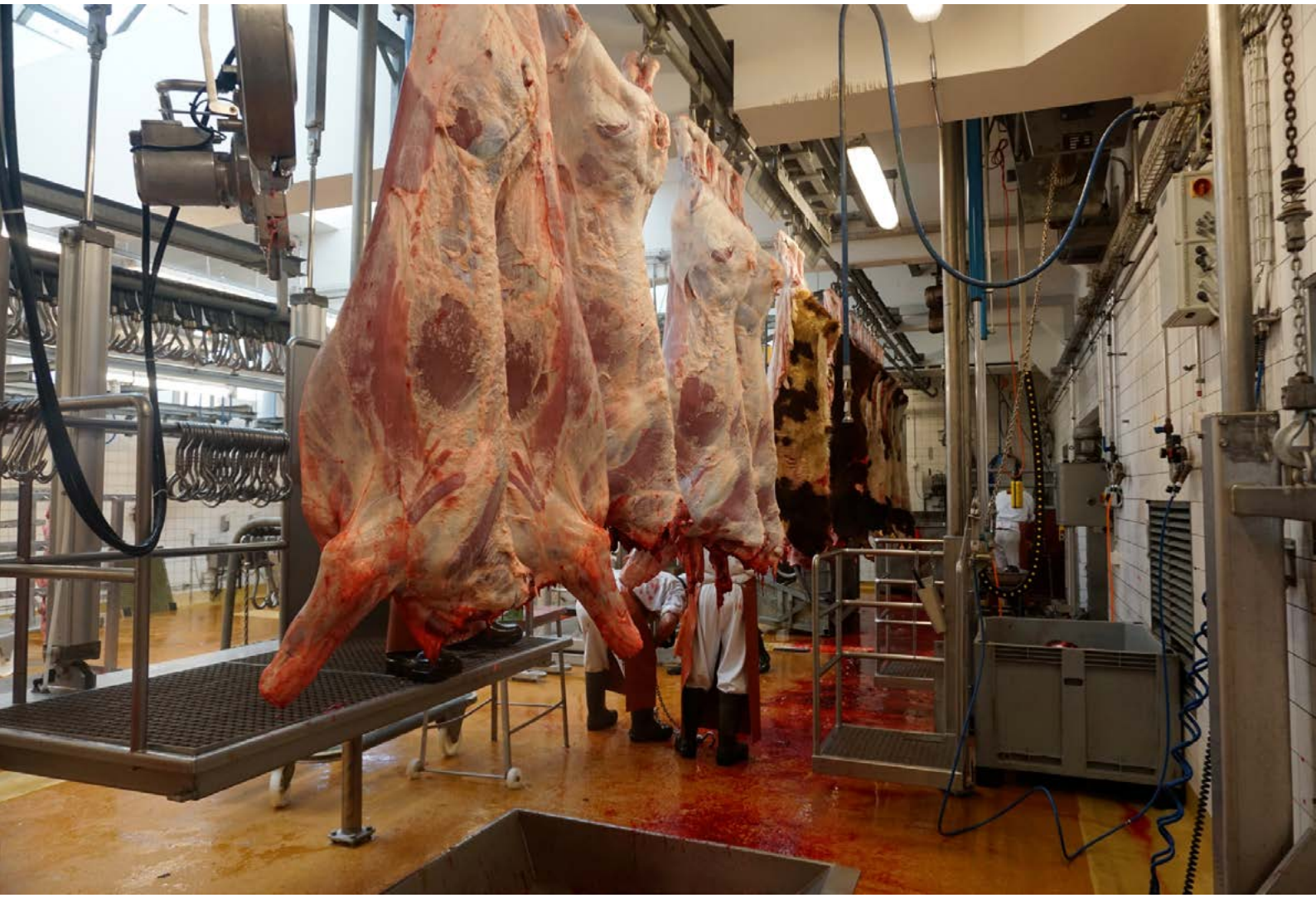
In 2024, 13,011 farms were inspected in the area of animal welfare, with 10,617 undergoing a basic control. This represents just under a third (30.4%) of agricultural livestock holdings with at least three livestock units subject to basic control. Enforcement authorities reported that close to 48% of the controls were unannounced, corresponding to a 5% decline in unannounced basic controls compared to the previous year. About 84% of other controls (follow-up, intermediate, amended, or sudden control) were unannounced. This resulted in 57% of all animal welfare controls being unannounced, meeting the requirements of Art. 13 MANCPO – effective from 1 January 2021 – which mandates that 20% of all basic controls and 40% of all animal welfare controls must be unannounced. During the basic controls, deficiencies were recorded in 14.7% of establishments, a decrease from the two previous years (2023: 15.6 %, 2022: 16.9%), but still higher than in the 2019-2021 period (2019: 13.9%, 2020: 3.5%, 2021: 14.8%).

Foodstuffs and utility articles

This year, the proportion of farms with deficiencies in hygiene in animal primary production was 5.6%, slightly below the 2023 figure (6.21%). The percentage of farms with deficiencies in milk hygiene in 2024 was 37.2%, slightly above the 2023 figure (35.4%). Inspections in hygiene in plant primary production revealed deficiencies in 0.5% to 5.6% 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.

The evaluation of milk testing in 2024 was based on milk test samples from Switzerland, excluding those from France (zone milk) and Liechtenstein. A comparison of the data from 2023 and 2024 showed a decrease in the number of samples analysed, as in recent years, primarily due to the decline in the number of milk production farms. Although the number of suspensions due to repeated exceedance of the bacterial count tended to increase compared to previous years, the arithmetic mean of the bacterial count and the number of samples above the objection limit were on a par with the previous year. In 2024, the number of suspensions due to positive evidence of inhibitors and thus the total number of suspensions was well below the level of recent years.

There was no significant variation in fitness for consumption of whole carcasses compared to 2023, with no special measures required.



Of all the samples collected as part of the National Residue Testing Programme, 8 (0.18%) were found to be non-compliant. This result was on a par with previous years. In 2024, the FSVO received results from 39,196 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). Data for product controls of processed foodstuffs and utility articles by cantonal enforcement authorities for 2024 produced a compliance rate of 83%. No data for genetically modified organisms in food-stuffs for 2024 are available at the moment.

Border veterinary checks on imports of food-stuffs of animal origin were all compliant in terms of pharmacologically active substances. Samples for laboratory tests for contaminants were collected from 42 consignments as part of the physical controls. The maximum limit for cadmium in crayfish was exceeded in one case. The other consignments were deemed to be compliant in terms of contaminant inspections.

As part of the import controls on foodstuffs and utility articles, 337 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 722,311 kg of beef potentially produced using hormonal growth promoters was imported, 4,516 kg less than in 2023. The inspections showed that companies comply with the regulations and no 'hormone-treated' meat was exported to the EU.

In 2024, during the national campaigns, the cantonal chemists analysed 275 water samples from 92 swimming pools for the disinfectant by-products chlorate, bromate, perchlorate and trichloracetate. The focus was on swimming pools that had previously exceeded the maximum limit. The control involved checking if the requested measures had been implemented effectively. The inspections show that some of the swimming pools were not able to adhere to the maximum limit for chlorate at all times. In another national campaign, a total of 127 samples, mainly dietary supplements, from Swiss online shops and Liechtenstein were inspected. 113 samples (89%) were rejected – for the protection of consumers – as they contained prohibited ingredients or ingredients for which the health risks have not yet been sufficiently evaluated and which therefore require authorisation. Moreover, nearly every fifth online shop was not registered with the foodstuffs inspection authority.

Photo of Jacob Thomas on unsplash

Statutory agricultural labelling

The inspection bodies carried out 12,684 organic inspections, identifying specific irregularities and infringements in 2,583 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 1,183 farms, 670 processing plants and 73 refining companies in accordance with PDO/PGI regulations. Of the 45 serious instances of non-compliance identified, 3 resulted in withdrawal or refusal of the certificate.

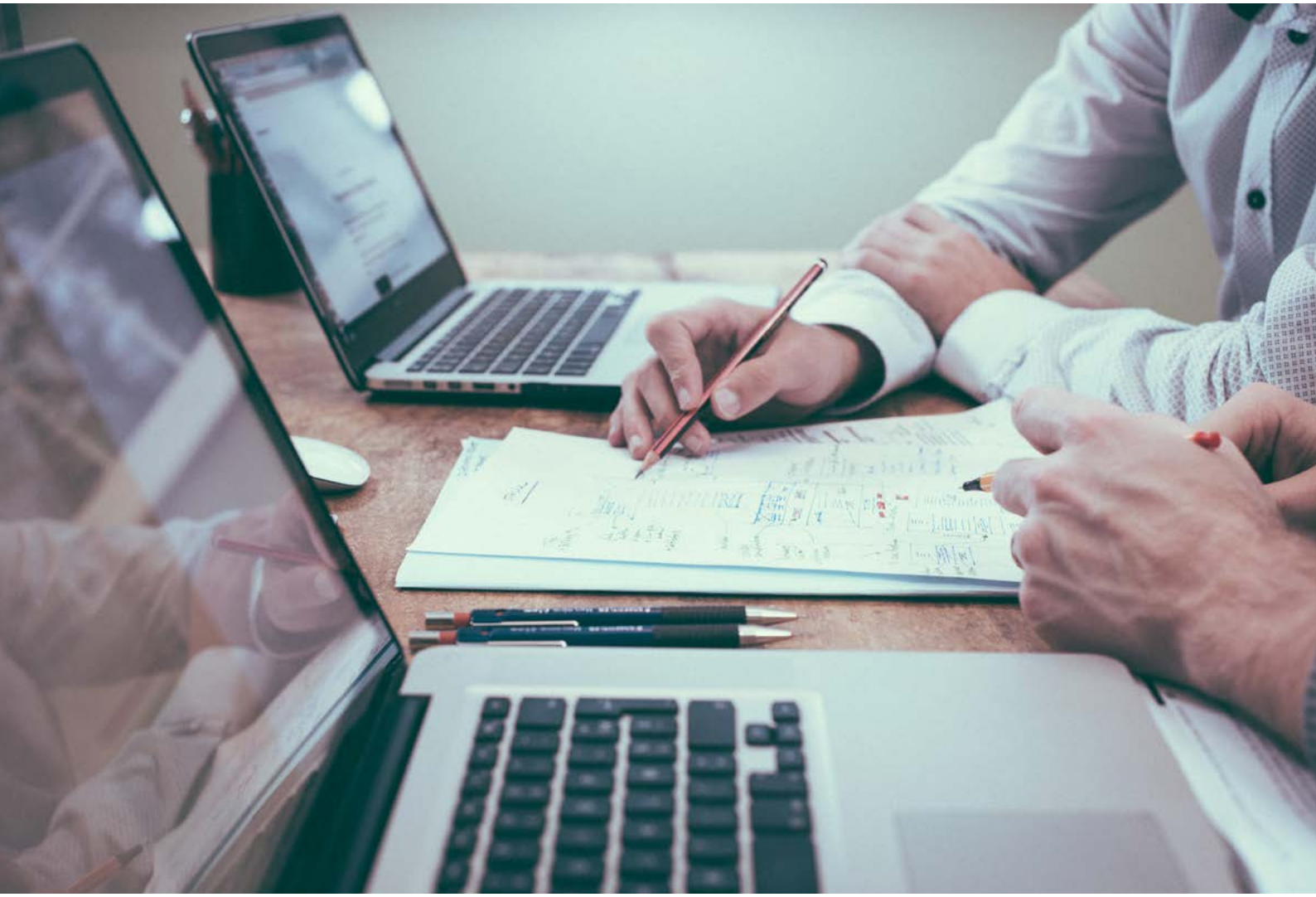
The certification bodies carried out 1,304 inspections in accordance with Mountain/Alpine regulations. 113 inspections found non-compliance.

The FOAG audited the control bodies as part of its overall supervisory role in the PDO/PGI and Mountain/Alpine areas. For PDOs/PGIs, the focus was on the products Raclette du Valais (AOP), Pain de seigle valaisan (AOP) und Glarner Kalberwurst (PGI). The main topics for Mountain/Alpine were the implementation of the sanction regulations PT (processing and trade), additional risk and random checks (5% and 15%) and primary production inspections. The cantons found only a few deficiencies during grape harvest inspections. There were 0 declassifications, 4 administrative measures (follow-up inspection, calibration of scales) and 1 notification (data delivered after the deadline). In the 2024 reporting year, the wine trade inspectorate found serious deficiencies in only 29 cases out of a total of 1,427 inspections. This corresponds to 2.0% of the total number of inspections (2023: 1.4%).

In 2024, 16 **public warnings** were issued in Switzerland for foodstuffs (2023:17) and 7 for utility articles (2023:0); in addition, there were at least 66 **recalls** for foodstuffs (2023:73) and 12 for utility articles (2023:22).

Switzerland was **audited** by the EU in the reporting year in terms of 'Residue checks in foodstuffs of animal origin'. Inspections also took place from two other countries (Brazil – milk and dairy products, Chile – gene 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' (on-going programme), 'Analysis of the monitoring of legal requirements by law enforcement in relation to food contact materials' (ongoing programme), 'Analysis of the monitoring of the legal requirements for feed additives and premixtures' (completed programme) and 'Authorisation of food companies' (completed programme).



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