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Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER  
Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG  
Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO

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# **Summary MANCP Annual Report 2019**

## **Multi-Annual National Control Plan for the Food Chain and Utility Articles**

### **Switzerland and Principality of Liechtenstein**

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- The official inspections along the entire food chain in Switzerland are in general carried out in accordance with the specified legal provisions.
- No unusual trends were observed in 2019.
- The new MANCP, which will cover the 2020–2023 period, was prepared during 2019. In addition to minor adjustments, the biggest innovation was the introduction of details about the indicators.
- The MANCP Annual Report 2019 presents a cockpit of indicators for the first time, allowing a quick overview of the safety status along the entire food chain.

The report gives a picture of the official controls along the food chain. The controls cover plant health / quarantine organisms, plant varieties and propagation material, plant protection products, fertilisers, feedstuffs, animal health, animal welfare, and foodstuffs and utility articles.

**Plant health / quarantine organisms** - Fifty-six businesses were inspected during trade controls. Minor shortcomings in the implementation of the plant passport were identified in one business. Regional surveillance is the responsibility of the Cantons. These currently ensure the systematic regional surveillance of 11 particularly dangerous harmful organisms. In 2019, 278 production establishments were subjected to at least one inspection. *Phytophthora ramorum* was found on Viburnum plants (snowball) and *Scirrhia pini* on *Pinus mugo* (mountain pine) in one establishment each. *Erwinia amylovora* (fire blight) was found on Cydonia (quince) in three establishments, and in six cases Flavescence dorée was found on Vitis plants. More infected plants were found than in previous years. 9,148 freight consignments comprising 23,978 goods subject to control (part-consignments) underwent plant-health import inspections in 2019. There was a slight increase in imports of goods subject to control compared to previous years. 0.93% of imported consignments and 0.35% of inspected goods were found to be non-compliant. In 43 cases, the consignment subject to control was non-compliant because particularly dangerous harmful organisms were found on one or more of the goods inspected. In the remaining 442 cases, the accompanying documents were inadequate or goods prohibited for import were found.

**Plant protection products (PPPs)** - The 2019 PPP market surveillance campaign was aimed specifically at collecting data on parallel imports of PPPs by customs at the Swiss border. On account of this targeted special sampling, no trend can be assessed this year. The number of non-compliances identified during random testing for pesticides in connection with proof of ecological performance (PEP) is not known for 2019. The data were not collected by the FOAG as in previous years. The data are available from the cantonal enforcement authorities. In the analysis of residues in feed, no samples had residues above the limits (screening and glyphosates). One organic feed showed PPP residues above the intervention level and had to be downgraded.

**Fertilisers** - Although the number of facilities inspected fell slightly, the volume of waste processed by them remained virtually unchanged. Since 2006, the inspections carried out have found that conformity levels in the businesses inspected have increased. Conformity levels at inspected facilities have been over 90% with very little fluctuation for the past five years.

The cantons commissioned fewer contaminant analyses in 2019. The results of solid digestate analyses show an improvement. However, this trend should be interpreted with caution. The problem has not yet been solved. Contaminant levels in compost are however significantly lower than those in digestate.

**Feedstuffs** - The proportion of slight non-conformities identified during process controls remained stable. Deadlines were set for the correction of detected violations of feedstuffs legislation. The slight increase in the number of businesses with deficiencies compared to the previous year is due to the fact that fewer businesses were inspected overall due to the changeover to a new LIMS (Laboratory Information Management System). In the case of product controls, the rate of serious non-conformities was 2.7%. Cumulations of minor and/or moderate non-conformities were classed as serious non-conformities. The trend towards a growing proportion of samples showing non-conformities persisted. Non-conformities should be viewed in perspective, as they do not pose a risk to health. They are attributable to a stricter approach to recurrent cases.

**Animal health** - Compared with the previous year, the number of businesses inspected for veterinary medicines, animal health and the transportation of animals fell slightly. The number of businesses at which non-conformities were identified also fell slightly in each of the three areas above. There were some noteworthy developments in connection with zoonoses. As in the previous year, a decrease in cases of BVD was recorded throughout Switzerland in 2019. Throughout 2019, the number of notifications received per quarter was consistently lower than the figure for the same quarter of 2018. In 2020, the FSVO will continue the increased supervision of enforcement in BVD control and surveillance. BTV-8: From September 2019, active (screening programme) and passive (investigating suspected cases) monitoring detected BTV-8 in cattle and sheep on around 85 animal holdings, as in the previous year. The whole of Switzerland remains within the bluetongue serotype 8 zone established in 2017. This means that there are still no restrictions on the transportation of animals in Switzerland. However, exports to countries where there have been no cases of bluetongue disease are still subject to conditions. This applies to exports of semen, egg cells and embryos, as well as to transportation. Following the large-scale avian influenza outbreak in wild birds in winter 2016/2017, no cases were recorded in either domestic poultry or wild birds during 2019. Sales of antibiotics continued to decline in 2018. A steady decrease in total antibiotic sales has been observed since 2009, together with a decrease in volumes of critical antibiotics over the past three years.

**Animal protection** - 9,998 livestock farms underwent basic inspections for compliance with animal welfare legislation. This corresponds to 23.4% of farms subject to the requirements of the MANCP Ordinance. The mean percentage for unannounced basic inspections across all cantons rose to 39% (compared to 35% in the previous year). No deficiencies were found on 86% of farms (same percentage as in the previous year).

**Foodstuffs and utility articles** - Basic inspections identified 445 deficiencies (5.6%) relating to hygiene in animal primary production and 1,481 (37.8%) relating to milk hygiene. The data for hygiene in plant primary production inspections carried out in 2019 are available in the Acontrol system for 20 cantons and the Principality of Liechtenstein. The available data show that hygiene in plant production was inspected at some 5,600 businesses, corresponding to 19% of businesses with agricultural land in the relevant cantons. Deficiencies were found in 2.6% of the businesses inspected. A comparison of the data for 2018 and 2019 shows a further decline in the number of milk samples tested, as in previous years. This is due to a decline in the number of dairies. The percentage of samples above the non-compliance threshold and the percentage of milk distribution bans were higher in 2019 than in previous years. Given the minimal nature of the rise, however, no measures are necessary. There was no significant change in meat hygiene compared to the previous year. The non-compliance rate for the foreign inspections programme fell slightly to 0.54%. The non-compliances concerned residues of antibacterial substances in milk (1) and muscle samples from cattle (2) and pigs (2). Other cases concerned steroids in a bovine liver sample, thyrostatics in bovine urine (1), carbamates and pyrethroids (2), lead (1) in honey, NSAIDs in farmed game (1) and other pharmacologically active substances in pig muscle samples (3). Process controls in processed foodstuffs and utility articles - The proportion of businesses against which administrative measures were taken and penalties were imposed remained at a level similar to previous years. Product controls in processed foodstuffs and utility articles - In view of the very different rates of and reasons for non-compliance, no general trend can be defined. Regarding GMOs, the results of 336 food samples were reported to the FSVO by the cantonal enforcement authorities. Mainly products from groups in which GMO ingredients were thought likely to be present were tested. Thirty-one samples (9.2%) contained GMOs. The number of samples containing GMOs approved or tolerated in Switzerland increased. Conversely, the percentage of samples containing GMOs that are not authorised in Switzerland fell. Unauthorised GMOs were detected occasionally in imported maize flour, a niche product. BVS (Border Veterinary Service) – Border veterinary inspections of foodstuffs of animal origin: In 2019, 6,685 consignments (animal products) were inspected in air freight traffic. During the physical checks, samples were collected from 147 consignments for laboratory analysis. Consignments are not inspected systematically but are checked physically according to an inspection frequency defined by the FSVO. This inspection frequency ranges from a minimum of 1% (e.g. frogs legs and snails) to a maximum of 50% (e.g. milk and dairy products). At 1.4%, the non-compliance rate was lower than in the previous year (4.2%). Import inspections of plant-based foodstuffs and utility articles - The non-compliance rate for the eleven planned risk-based priority programmes (PPs) was 20%; it should

be noted that one programme showed no cases of non-compliance. 63% of samples collected following a suspected case were confirmed to be non-compliant. Based on the results of the border inspection programmes, it can be concluded that high non-compliance rates due to pesticide residues in Asian fruits and vegetables (around 22%) and incorrect labelling of products for athletes and food supplements can be expected to continue. Import of beef that may have been produced using hormonal growth promoters: The inspections showed that companies comply with the regulations and no “hormone-treated” meat was exported to the EU.

SACCh national campaign: Plant protection products in drinking water: The quality of drinking water in Switzerland is good, but regional improvements are needed. This applies in particular to drinking water that comes from groundwater in arable areas.

**Statutory agricultural labelling** - 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; 4 audits. GUB/GGA and Mountain/Alpine control bodies: In 2019, four certification bodies were audited as part of the FOAG’s monitoring activities. The main areas of focus were the management of non-conformities, the certification process and, in particular, the control of the qualitative and quantitative traceability of the products concerned. The inspection system for wine was revised in 2017 (AS 2017 6123). Since the 2018 grape harvest, harvest monitoring data are collected by the cantons, which must send the FOAG an annual report on the results of the monitoring. The report must give at least an indication of the total number of businesses subject to control, the number of businesses inspected in the reporting year, irregularities and infringements detected, measures taken in response and the results of the risk analysis. In 2019, there were 1,571 wine producers, in which 1,779 inspections were carried out. Since 2019, wine trade inspections in Switzerland have been carried out by a single control body: the Swiss Wine Trade Inspectorate (SWK). Since 1 January 2019, all wine trading businesses have been subject to this control body. The SWK informs the FOAG about the measures ordered.

The FSVO has developed a **food safety early detection system**. This system takes account of information from various sources as well as the opinions of experts from federal government, cantons, industry and universities. The FSVO collates this information in the ADURA database ([www.adura.blv.admin.ch](http://www.adura.blv.admin.ch)).

In Switzerland, 21 public warnings were issued for foodstuffs (2018:12) and 5 for utility articles (2018:4), as well as 32 recalls for foodstuffs (2018:29) and 15 for utility articles (2018:14). These were published on the FSVO website.

Switzerland was **audited** once by the EU on the subject of monitoring of residues and contaminants in live animals and animal products including controls on veterinary medicinal products. No third-country audits took place.

The system along the food chain was **scrutinised** by several national authorities. Particular areas of scrutiny were “sale of food chain products on the Internet (e-commerce)”, “non-compliances and enforcement measures”, “complaints and enforcement measures”, “stunning equipment” and “analysis of meat inspection and animal welfare in slaughterhouses”.