Notes on the Cassis de Dijon application form

The introduction of the Cassis de Dijon principle (CdD principle) enables products from member states of the European Union (EU) or the European Economic Area (EEA) which comply with technical regulations of the EU or EU or EEA member states to be sold in Switzerland. However, a special regulation exists for foodstuffs under the CdD principle. Anyone wishing to import into or market foodstuffs in Switzerland which do not comply with Swiss regulations must apply to the Federal Office of Public Health for approval. Approval is granted in the form of a general ruling.

The application form must be completed in an official language of Switzerland. Any documents submitted in addition may be submitted in an official language of Switzerland or in English. The complete Cassis de Dijon application must be submitted to the Cassis de Dijon Notification Authority.

1 Applicant
The name and postal address of the applicant must be given.

2 Business address in Switzerland
Under Article 16d paragraph 3 of the Federal Law on Technical Barriers to Trade (THG), the applicant must constitute a business address in Switzerland.

3 Address for invoice
Should the invoice be addressed to the Applicant or to the Business address in Switzerland?

4 Product name
A product name may be a made-up or imaginary name, but must not deceive consumers.

5 Product description/name under which the product is sold in the country of origin
The name under which a foodstuff is sold is the name specified in the regulations under EU/EEA law. This is a description of the foodstuff and, where necessary, of its use which enables the consumer to identify the type of foodstuff concerned and to distinguish it from products with which it might be confused. A brand name or a made-up or imaginary name cannot be used instead of the product description.
6 Information on composition

All ingredients and additives must be listed in decreasing order of quantity. The proportion of the product accounted for by an ingredient or additive at the time of processing is decisive. Information which describes the product more accurately should also be given here. For example, the form in which the product is brought onto the market, or whether the foodstuff is sold in cooked or raw form.

7 Technical regulations

The applicant must list all relevant technical regulations which describe the product definitively, and must state the sources. In general, the technical regulations of the EU apply and, where regulations have not been harmonised or have only been partly harmonised in the EU, the technical regulations of a member state of the EU or the EEA. All applicable technical regulations must also be appended in an official language of Switzerland or in English. The applicant must state the ways in which the foodstuff deviates from Swiss legislation and list all deviations from Swiss foodstuffs legislation.

8 Confirmation of marketability

Evidence that the foodstuff is lawfully marketed in the member state of the EU or the EEA under whose regulations it was manufactured (i.e. delivery note, invoice, sales statistics etc).

9 Objections by a cantonal laboratory

Indication if there has been a complaint regarding the foodstuff and indication of the reason of complaint.

The documentation has to be completed, before the approval starts. Please submit all documents mentioned under “Documents required”. The sample of packaging with the label may be submitted either in its original form or in colour in printed or electronic form. Black-and-white copies will not be accepted. The Federal Office of Public Health will decide whether to grant approval within two months of receiving a complete application.

In signing the application, the applicant confirms that the foodstuff complies with the relevant technical regulations of the EU or of an EU/EEA member state and acknowledges that misrepresentations in legal transactions are punishable with imprisonment for up to three years or a fine.