



Swiss Confederation

## **Information Animal Welfare**

### **Annual report on animal facilities (Report HC):**

### **Explanatory notes to report HC**

V1.0 14.01.2021

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## **1 Purpose and applicability**

It is the intention of the legislator to create transparency in the field of animal experimentation and thus to promote an objective discussion. The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) publishes annual statistics covering all animal experiments. It shall inform the public about issues concerning animal experiments and genetic modifications in animals. It contains the necessary information to enable the assessment of the application of animal protection legislation (art. 36 Animal Protection Act; SR 455).

These explanations are directed to animal facilities and to the authorities. The purpose of these explanations is to facilitate the writing and evaluation of the reports and so reduce the number of further enquiries.

The explanations are to be taken as a reference text, should there be a lack of clarity when completing the individual sections.

The ordinance on the electronic information system for the administration of animal experiments (SR 455.61) regulates the operation of the application animex-ch.

Further instructions from the cantonal authorities, e.g. with regard to language or whether documents (e.g. scientific literature, publications) should be attached, must be considered.

## **2 Formal aspects of submitting the report**

According to art. 114 para. 2 let. d Animal Welfare Ordinance (SR 455.1), the head of an animal facility (HAF) is responsible for reporting. The report is addressed to the cantonal authority and includes the total number of animals bred and imported per calendar year using the reporting form HC.

According to art. 145 para. 1 Animal Welfare Ordinance, the head of an animal facility (HAF) must report to the cantonal authority per calendar year for each animal species and for genetically modified and strained lines or strains, the total number of animals bred and produced by the end of February of the following year via the animex-ch information system.

The cantons shall check the data and subsequently transmit the report to the FSVO in accordance with art. 145 para. 2 Animal Welfare Ordinance.

## **3 Explanations to the individual sections**

The explanations to the individual sections provide information on the purpose for which a declaration is necessary, what content is expected and what special features must be taken into account.

<b>Heading:</b>	<b>Application number</b>
CONTENT	Not to be filled in as the numbering is done by the system (national number) and the authorities (cantonal number).
PURPOSE OF ENTRY	Unambiguous identification of the report.

## BASICS

<b>Section 01</b>	<b>For the year {year}</b>
CONTENT	Indicates the reporting year.
<b>Section 02</b>	<b>Name of the animal facility</b>
CONTENT	<p>The name of the animal facility is prefilled by the system and cannot be edited.</p> <p>If the name of the animal facility does not appear in the pull-down list, contact the competent cantonal authority.</p>
<b>Section 03</b>	<b>Address of the animal facility</b>
CONTENT	<p>Post address of the animal facility. Will be taken from the license (form H).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street</li> <li>• Postal code</li> <li>• Town</li> </ul>
<b>Section 04</b>	<b>Head of animal facility</b>
CONTENT	<p>Contact details of head of animal facility (HAF).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Tel. nr.</li> </ul>

## Section 05

### Address of the cantonal authority

CONTENT

Postal address of the competent cantonal authority (cantonal veterinary service).

Is transferred from the license (form H) of the animal facility.

- Name
- Street
- Postal code
- Town

## CONFIRMATIONS

## Section 06

### Confirmation of facility

CONTENT

Confirmation by the animal facility that the data are correct. According to art. 114 para. 2 let. d of the Animal Welfare Ordinance (SR 455.1) the head of an animal facility is responsible for reporting.

#### Name und Role

Name of the person submitting the report to the cantonal authority.  
The name is inserted by the system upon submission.

#### Statement of correctness

By submitting the report to the cantonal authority, the responsible person confirms that the information in the report is complete and correct and has been verified by the head of the animal facility.

#### Date: Timestamp of submission

Date of submission of the report to the cantonal authority.

PURPOSE OF ENTRY

Replaces the signature in the electronic dossier.

## Section 07

### Confirmation of cantonal authority

CONTENT

The person submitting the report to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) confirms that the data from the animal facility have been verified and are plausible.

#### Name

Name of the person submitting the report to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO). The name is inserted by the system upon submission.

### **Statement of correctness**

By submitting to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), the responsible person confirms that the cantonal authority has checked the completeness of the provided information and confirms its plausibility.

### **Date: Time stamp of submission**

Date of submission to the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO).

PURPOSE OF ENTRY

Replaces the signature in the electronic dossier.

## **ANIMALS**

### **Section 08**

#### **Species list**

CONTENT

All animals born in the animal facility and imported from abroad during the reporting year, whether or not they have been used in experiments, have left the animal facility, have been used for breeding or have been euthanized, must be reported. Mammals are counted on weaning, birds and reptiles on hatching, and amphibians and fish when the larvae are feeding freely.

For lines and strains which do not show an impaired phenotype, even if genetically modified, animal numbers can be given as an overall figure. Lines and strains which show an impaired phenotype, genetically modified or not, must be indicated individually. For genetically modified animals, a distinction is made between the animals showing the genetic modification and the wild-type animals from these breedings.

#### **Genetically modified**

Have the animals been genetically modified? Yes/No selection. Accordingly appear the corresponding fields which need to be edited.

In the generating and breeding of genetically modified lines, some animals are produced which do not carry the genetic modification and in this respect are wild-type animals, which need to be indicated as such within the genetically modified animals.

Spontaneous mutants are not classed as genetically modified but as wild-type.

#### **Information about the animal species**

##### **Animal species**

Select the name of the animal species in the pull-down list.

The selection in the pull-down list depends on information in the button "Genetically modified".

### **Other species (in case of other laboratory rodents, other non-mammals, other mammals or wild rodents)**

If "Other laboratory rodents", "Other mammals", "Other non-mammals", "Wild rodents" or "Other lab rodents\_gm" is selected in the pull-down list, the specific animal species must be indicated.

"Wild rodents" means all animals in the rodent group that do not come from lines that have been bred under laboratory conditions for many generations. Wild rodents are all rodents except for the laboratory mouse (*Mus musculus*), laboratory rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), laboratory hamster (*Mesocricetus auratus*), mongolian gerbil (*Meriones unguiculatus*) or laboratory guinea pig (*Cavia porcellus*).

### **Strained lines (impaired phenotype)**

According to the definition in art. 2 para. 3 letters k and l Animal Welfare Ordinance (SR 455.1) all lines including strained animals shall be individually indicated as strained lines in report HC, even if not all animals express the stressed gene or if the stress can be compensated by husbandry and care measures.

Not all animals of a line with an impaired phenotype show the constraint to the same extent. Many do not immediately express the impairing gene or do not suffer the same prospective severity grade. All animals of a line with an impaired phenotype are indicated under this line, irrespective of their individual genotype constellation or actual impairments.

The progeny of a crossing between heterozygotic animals of the line with an impaired phenotype and wild-type animals must be listed under this line with an impaired phenotype. Wild-type animals may occur in genetically modified lines. These animals too are listed under the line with an impaired phenotype. The animals are considered as having an impaired phenotype even if the impairments are compensated by appropriate housing and care conditions. As a result, the total number of animals produced in the line to be given in Form HC may not correspond to the number of animals which actually show an impaired phenotype.

**Name of the strained line:** To indicate the name of the strained line. The description must match the description in the data sheet.

### **Number of animals born in the animal facility or imported from abroad**

After first selecting whether the animals are genetically modified or not, it must subsequently be stated how many animals originate from the own animal facility or have been imported.

In the case of genetically modified lines, a distinction must be made as to whether the animals carry the genetic modification (to be indicated as genetically modified animals) or not (to be indicated as wild-type).

Additions from Swiss animal facilities do not need to be counted if they are already counted at the facility of origin. This needs to be clarified by the head of the animal facility (HAF).