



Technical information on animal experimentation

Authorisation for laboratory animal husbandry and report on the animals bred in a laboratory animal facility and on imported animals (Form-H and Form-CH)

1 Overview

The authorisation of laboratory animal husbandry is based on the Animal Welfare Act (Art. 11 TSchG), the Animal Welfare Ordinance (Arts. 114-127, Art. 143 and Art. 145 TSchV) and the Ordinance on laboratory animal husbandry, the production of genetically modified animals and the methods of animal experimentation (Art. 2, Art. 8, Art. 28 and Art. 29 TVV).

All licences for laboratory animal facilities are issued for a maximum of ten years (Art. 122 para. 4, Art. 142 para. 2 TSchV).

2 Authorisation for laboratory animal husbandry

Anyone who keeps, breeds or trades in laboratory animals requires a cantonal licence (Art. 11 TSchG, Art. 122 para. 1 TSchV, Art. 28 TVV). **Form-H** is used to apply for the relevant licence.

No authorisation as laboratory animal facility is required for existing facilities for life stock, wild and companion animals, in which animals are used occasionally and temporarily for experimental purposes (Art. 122 para. 6 TSchV).

Additionally to the physical conditions and equipment, (Art. 117 TSchV) the licence for a laboratory animal facility also lays down requirements in relation to management, distribution of responsibilities, training and continuing education of specialist staff involved, health monitoring and, in the case of genetically modified animals, the organisation and documentation of monitoring of constraint, if necessary by means of conditions and requirements with regard to species of animal, husbandry, personnel requirements, etc. (Art. 122 para. 5 TSchV).

The licence is issued in the name of the head of the laboratory animal facility (Art. 114 and Art. 122 TSchV).

Applications for laboratory animal facility licences do not need to be assessed by the cantonal committee on animal experimentation and the FSVO has no right of objection to such licences.

3 Annual report on weaned and imported animals

Laboratory animal facilities shall keep an animal inventory with information on identification as well as entry and exit of animals, broken down by animal species. Entry records contain number, date of birth and origin of animals, exit records contain number of animals and cause of exit. Genetically modified animals and mutants with an impaired phenotype shall be recorded in the animal inventory separated by line or strain. The records shall be available to the competent authority and be kept for three years. (Art. 143 TSchV)

Per calendar year, the head of the licensed laboratory animal facility must report to the cantonal authorities the total number of animals born in the facility, counted at the day of weaning, and the animals imported from abroad. Separate reporting is required for each animal species and for lines or strains genetically modified and showing an impaired phenotype. **Form-CH** is used for this purpose. For each animal species and for all lines not showing an impaired phenotype, genetically modified lines are differentiated from non-genetically modified lines. The number of animals bred or imported within lines showing impaired phenotypes (see announcement of constraint observed in animal lines, **Form-M**) is reported for each line. Reports need be submitted to the competent authority by the end of February of the following year (Art. 145 para. 1 letter b. TSchV, Art. 29 TVV).

The information in **Form-CH** is intended to allow statements to be made about the numbers of animals bred and imported for experimental purposes in Switzerland.

4 Annex

4.1 Glossary

| Term | Signification |
|----------------------------|---|
| Form-CH | Form for the annual report of the total number of animals born in the facility and the animals imported from abroad. Animals born in the facility are counted at the day of weaning. |
| Form-H | Application form for the authorisation of a laboratory animal husbandry. |
| GMA | Genetically modified animals. Offspring of lines or strains with genetically modified animals (according to Art. 3 letter d of the Containment Ordinance; SR 814.912) are deemed to be modified until evidence is provided to show that they do not carry the genetic modification of the parent animal (Art. 123 TSchV). |
| H licence | Authorisation of a laboratory animal husbandry. |
| Laboratory animal facility | Animal husbandry unit in which laboratory animals are kept, bred or traded. |
| TSchG | Tierschutzgesetz (Animal Welfare Act) of 16 December 2005 (SR 455). |
| TSchV | Tierschutzverordnung (Animal Welfare Ordinance) of 23 April 2008 (SR 455.1). |
| TVV | Tierversuchsverordnung (Ordinance on laboratory animal husbandry, the production of genetically modified animals and the methods of animal experimentation; Animal Experimentation Ordinance) of 12 April 2010 (SR 455.163). |

4.2 Legislation

English is not an official language of the Swiss Confederation. No official English translation of the law is available. The translation is provided on the FSVO website for information purposes only:
<https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/tiere/tierversuche.html>