

Veterinary legislation

1 General

1.1 Legal basis

Epizootic Diseases Ordinance (EzDO; [SR 916.401](#)), Ordinance on Animal By-Products (ABO; [SR 916.441.22](#))

Ordinance on the Slaughter of Animals and Meat Inspection (SMIO; [SR 817.190](#))

Animal Welfare Ordinance (AniWO; [SR 455.1](#))

Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with EU Member States, Iceland and Norway (ITEO-EU; [SR 916.443.11](#)), Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with Third Countries (ITEO-TC; [SR 916.443.10](#)), Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Pet Animals (IETPO; [SR 916.443.14](#)), FDHA Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with EU Member States, Iceland and Norway (ITEO-EU_FDHA; [SR 916.443.111](#)), FDHA Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in Exchanges with Third Countries (ITEO-TC-FDHA; [SR 916.443.106](#))

Ordinance on the Fees Charged by the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FeeO-FSVO; [SR 916.472](#))

Ordinance on the Inspection of the Lawful Origin of Imported Marine Fishery Products (Marine Fishery Control Ordinance; [SR 453.2](#))

1.2 Terminology

The abbreviations and terms used in connection with veterinary legislation on the "Display details" page have the following meanings:

Authorised airports	Border control posts at Zurich and Geneva airports
CF	Compound foods
CHED	Common Health Entry Document
Marine fishery IUU	Inspection of the lawful origin of marine fishery products (Marine Fishery Control Ordinance; SR 453.2)
VBC	Border veterinary control (inspection)/border veterinary inspection fee

1.3 Competence

The competent authority for the areas of veterinary legislation is the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), Schwarzenburgstrasse 155, Liebefeld, CH-3003 Bern:

- Veterinary legislation (VBC): tel. +41 (0)58 463 30 33,
<mailto:info@blv.admin.ch>, www.blv.admin.ch
- CITES fauna: tel.+41 (0)58 462 25 41,
<mailto:cites@blv.admin.ch>, www.cites.ch

2 Border veterinary control (VBC) and accompanying documents

N.B.: Tares indicates only those veterinary legislation control procedures which are required when crossing a customs border where the fees incurred are levied by the FOCBS.

2.1 Animals and animal products from third countries

Before or at the time of importation into Switzerland, border veterinary inspections must be carried out on:

- animals and animal products from countries other than EU member states, Andorra, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Canary Islands, Martinique, Mayotte, Northern Ireland, Norway, Réunion and San Marino
- and
- animals from Iceland that are specified in chapter 01 of the customs tariff

Checks are normally carried out upon first entry into the Common Veterinary Area between the European Union and Switzerland, and can therefore be carried out at EU border control posts as well. The Common Health Entry Document (CHED), which releases a consignment into free circulation and must always accompany it to the destination specified in the CHED, serves as proof that the checks have been carried out successfully.

In Switzerland, direct importation from countries other than EU member states is possible only via the border control posts at Zurich and Geneva airports. This applies also to consignments which are destined for transit to another country. The border veterinary inspection must be carried out prior to customs clearance at the border control posts at Zurich or Geneva airport during the opening hours published online (see www.blv.admin.ch > About the FSVO > Mandate > Enforcement > Border veterinary service > More information > [List of Swiss border control posts](#)). Border veterinary inspections are subject to a fee.

The majority of animals or animal products must be accompanied by a valid certificate or trade document and must be pre-notified using TRACES. The importer or handling agent is responsible for providing the necessary documents. Consignments with incomplete documentation and those that do not meet the importation requirements will be turned back by the border veterinary service.

Detailed information is available on the FSVO's website (www.blv.admin.ch) or can be obtained via email to info@blv.admin.ch.

2.2 Animals and animal products from EU member states, Northern Ireland, Norway and Iceland

These animals and animal products are not subject to a border veterinary inspection. Exception: section 2.1 applies for live animals from Iceland listed in chapter 01 of the customs tariff. In many cases, however, animals and animal products must be accompanied by a health certificate or a trade document when crossing the border. Usually, the veterinary officer in the country of origin has to send an electronic TRACES notification to the cantonal veterinary service at the place of destination.

Detailed information is available on the FSVO's website (www.blv.admin.ch) or can be obtained via email to info@blv.admin.ch.

2.3 Veterinary law accompanying documents

Animals and animal products for which a CHED, health certificate or FSVO authorisation is required are indicated as follows under Authorisation obligation in Tares (Display details):

Authorisation obligation	Authorisation issuer		Tolerance
	FSVO-other	If of animal origin: CHED, authorisation or health certificate required (see "Remarks", "Veterinary legislation")	0kg

If only certain animals or animal products under a tariff number require a veterinary law accompanying document, they are mentioned accordingly.

Consignments from third countries require a CHED from an EU or Swiss border inspection post or an FSVO authorisation (for exceptions, see section 2.4).

Consignments of cloven-hoofed animals and domestic fowl (tariff numbers 0102-0105) from the EU require a health certificate.

2.4 Border veterinary inspections

Animals and animal products that are brought into the customs territory directly from third countries at the Geneva and Zurich airport local levels must undergo a border veterinary inspection and are indicated as follows in Tares (Display details):

Additional charges	Code	Key				
	290	VBC	002	Imported by air via authorised airports (see "Remarks", "Veterinary legislation")	CHF Min. CHF Max. CHF	1.47 88.00 676.00 per 100kg gross

If the entire scope of application of the tariff number is not affected by the inspection obligation, the animal species or goods concerned are explicitly listed.

Compound foods (CF) containing both products of plant origin and processed products of animal origin are likewise subject to the border veterinary inspection obligation.

This applies also if all of the products are classified in Tares under a tariff number without the note on "VBC" additional charges or the "FSVO" authorisation obligation.

Exceptional conditions

In view of their low risk, defined compound foods are exempt from the border veterinary inspection obligation. The exceptions are based on [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/630](#). These are indicated accordingly in Tares. The compound foods in question must fulfil **all of the following criteria**:

- **do not** contain processed meat;
- **do not** contain gelatine and collagen from ruminant bones;
- can be kept at room temperature;
- **do not** contain colostrum;
- labelled for human consumption;
- securely packaged/sealed.

If **all of the criteria are simultaneously** met, compound foods are exempt from the border veterinary inspection obligation, and neither a specific certificate nor a specific accompanying document is required to cross the border.

Can be kept at room temperature	All products that can be stored without refrigeration
Colostrum	First milk produced after giving birth

In case of doubt, the FSVO (Import from Third Countries Sector) or the competent border veterinary service will decide whether a specific product is subject to inspection or not.

2.5 Fees (see also section 3.3)

The fees for border veterinary inspections are listed under Additional charges on the "Display details" page in Tares.

Additional charges	Code	Key				
	290	VBC	002	Imported by air via authorised airports (see "Remarks", "Veterinary legislation")	CHF Min. CHF Max. CHF	1.47 88.00 676.00 per 100kg gross

If both a border veterinary inspection fee and a species protection inspection fee (290 VBC, 292 CITES fauna) are stipulated for a tariff number and any statistical key, only the border veterinary inspection fee (290 VBC) is payable. Accordingly, only the border veterinary inspection fee (290 VBC) is to be declared in the customs declaration.

The border veterinary inspection fee for imports is CHF 1.47 per 100kg gross, with a minimum of CHF 88 and a maximum of CHF 676 per consignment.

Exception: the border veterinary fee (VBC) for inspecting imports of animal products (excluding semen, ova and embryos) from New Zealand is CHF 1.14 per 100kg gross, with a minimum of CHF 68.20 and a maximum of CHF 523.90 per consignment.

For the purposes of VBC fees, a consignment is defined as follows: a number of animals of the same species or similar animal products that are shipped using the same means of transport, originate from the same place of origin, are intended for the same establishment of destination and can be listed on the same CHED.

Consequently, if **one** customs declaration lists several tariff rows with animals or animal products for which several CHEDs have also been issued, the VBC fee is calculated individually for each CHED issued. This means that the minimum and maximum are calculated per CHED.

2.6 Customs declaration

The person subject to the declaration obligation must

- make a statement on the authorisation obligation in the customs declaration;
- enter the number of the CHED, health certificate or FSVO authorisation (authorisation number section) as follows:

CHED	For animals: A.CH.YYYY.1234567 For animal products: P.CH.YYYY.1234567
Health certificate	I.XY.YYYY.1234567 (XY = abbreviation for EU member state)
FSVO authorisation	Single import authorisation: YYEB123456-DS Multiple imports authorisation: YYMB123456-DS

- only goods with one CHED, one health certificate or one authorisation can be declared per tariff row;
- declare the NZE mandatory code 1 and NZE type code 190 in the e-dec customs declaration. If a border veterinary inspection fee is payable, this has to be declared using code 290 (see section 2.5).

In air transport from third countries, animals and animal products subject to inspection can be declared for importation only if the border veterinary inspection has taken place and the electronic comparison with TRACES or the ITEO information system has been successful.

The person subject to the declaration obligation must present the CHED, the health certificate or the FSVO authorisation to the local level in the following cases:

- at the request of the local level;
- for animals and animal products from third countries in air and maritime transport that are declared by means other than e-dec;
- for all cloven-hoofed animals and domestic fowl (TN 0102-0105) that are declared by means other than e-dec.

2.7 Importation of beef under tariff numbers 0201.2091, 0201.3091, 0202.2091 and 0202.3091 from countries with no ban on hormones as growth promoters; ban on re-exportation to EU member states

Owing to Switzerland's trade policy obligations, it is possible in principle to import beef from countries where there is no ban on the use of hormones as growth promoters. By contrast these imports are banned by the EU.

Based on Annex 11 to the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on Trade in Agricultural Products of 21 June 1999 ([SR 0.916.026.81](#)), border veterinary inspections are no longer carried out in the movement of goods between Switzerland and the EU. It is therefore necessary to prevent beef from being exported to the EU from countries where there is no ban on the use of hormones as growth promoters in production. The countries of origin concerned are the United States, Canada and Australia. Only fresh, refrigerated or frozen beef is affected. As a rule this is "High Quality Beef"¹.

The ITEO-TC ([SR 916.443.10](#)) also regulates the importation of meat from countries where there is no ban on the use of hormones as growth promoters. It is prohibited to export such meat from the

¹ See stat. keys under numbers 0201.2091, 0201.3091, 0202.2091 and 0202.3091; see also: Explanatory notes → Chapter 2 → Special provisions → ["High Quality Beef"](#)

customs territory to EU member states and to customs enclaves ([Art. 30 of the ITEO-EU](#)). Aside from the general customs legislative and non-customs legislative provisions, the following special provisions apply **in addition** for the importation of such meat:

1. Importation is only possible within the partial tariff quota 5.7, i.e. the importer/recipient must be in possession of a corresponding tariff quota share.
2. It must be meat from under tariff numbers 0201.2091, 0201.3091, 0202.2091 or 0202.3091.
3. The importers and the recipients must, among other things, undertake with an end-use commitment to the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (FOCBS), Economic Measures Section, CH-3003 Bern, to use such meat only in the customs territory and to indicate the usage proviso in accordance with Article 4 of the ITEO-TC-FDHA ([SR 916.443.106](#)) in the sale and delivery documents. The FOCBS allots a commitment number to the importers and to the recipients.
4. Cuts and portions resulting from the butchering and preparation of such meat may only be sold on to consumers directly by retailers. So long as the meat is not sold on directly to consumers by retailers, butchers or restaurants, it may not be further processed into meat preparations or meat products. Compliance with these regulations is checked by the FSVO and the FOCBS.
5. The customs offices at Zurich and Geneva airports are responsible for assessing meat of this kind. In justified exceptional cases (in particular where no tariff quota shares are available), the customs declaration can also take place at other local customs offices. Being brought to an open customs warehouse or bonded warehouse is only possible if it is recognised by the competent cantonal office as a storage location for imported goods and has been registered in TRACES. In addition, the open customs warehouse or bonded warehouse must be explicitly mentioned as the place of destination in the CHED.
6. In the import customs declaration, the commitment number of the importer or their recipient and the following remark should be noted:
"to be used exclusively in the customs territory".
7. Upon request, importers and their recipients must provide proof to the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security that the meat was used exclusively in the customs territory or was re-exported to another country other than an EU member state or a customs enclave. For each transfer, a corresponding usage proviso must be indicated in the sales and delivery document.

These regulations are not applicable to meat that originates from countries that do not prohibit the use of hormones as growth promoters but is accompanied by a health certificate recognised by the EU (Art. 9 para. 1 of the ITEO-TC).

3 Marine fishery (IUU)

See [Directive R-60-6.2](#) (available in French and German).