

FOAG – Plant health

1. General

1.1 Background

To prevent damage resulting from the introduction and spread of plant diseases and pests, different measures are specified for the import of plants, live parts of plants and certain goods, depending on the country of origin. Depending on the risk of particularly harmful plant diseases and pests being introduced, the affected goods are subject to import bans, control and inspection requirements, or may be imported without being subject to any requirements.

Anyone importing goods from third countries that are subject to the control and inspection requirement needs a plant health certificate and must declare or present the goods for inspection to the [Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service](#) (SPPS) if they are being imported directly from a third country. If the import takes place via an EU country, the goods must be declared or presented for inspection to the plant protection service at the point of first entry into the EU.

1.2 Legal basis and information

- Ordinance on the Protection of Plants from Particularly Harmful Organisms (Plant Health Ordinance, (PHO [SR 916.20](#));
- Ordinance of the EAER and DETEC on the Plant Health Ordinance (PHO-EAER-DETEC [SR 916.201](#));
- FOAG Ordinance on Phytosanitary Measures for Agriculture and Horticulture (PhyMO-FOAG [SR 916.202.1](#));
- FOEN Ordinance on Phytosanitary Measures for the Forest (PhyMO-FOEN, [SR.916.202.2](#));
- FOAG information on "[Importing from non-EU countries](#)" and "[Factsheet No. 1](#)";
- FOAG information on "[Importing from EU countries](#)".

1.3 Reference in Tares

Tariff items that are relevant from a plant health regulation perspective contain the note "Permit obligation: FOAG-PH C" or "Non-customs provisions: FOAG - Plant health (passport required/prohibitions)".

1.4 Definitions

Common sanitary and phytosanitary area	The EU states, Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein constitute a common sanitary and phytosanitary area. This means that fresh plant material is inspected upon first entry into the CH-EU agricultural area.
EU states	<p>The term EU states shall be taken to mean countries with the following ISO-2 country codes: AD, AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LU, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, SM and VA in accordance with "Remarks on the customs tariff – Tares", "List of countries".</p> <p>The Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla and the French overseas territories are not considered EU states.</p>
Third countries	Third countries are deemed to be all states except Switzerland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, Northern Ireland and the EU states.
Goods subject to control and inspection	Plants, live parts of plants and certain goods
Plants	Plants, seeds and any propagation material
Live parts of plants	Fresh parts of plants, fruit (excluding fruits of pineapples, coconuts, durians, bananas and dates), vegetables, branches, etc.
Certain goods	Wood and used agricultural and forestry machines which, as a result of being contaminated with soil and plant residues, may bring pests into Switzerland.

2. Information in the customs/goods declaration

Anyone importing third-country goods subject to inspection and certification requirements must provide an indication in the goods declaration regarding the regulation requirement and enter the sanitary certificate (CHED-PP).

Identification Regulation	e-dec:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Authorisation requirement "yes" - Authorising office "FOAG-PH C"
Additional details	Passar:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation "yes" - "Regulation code 701 "FOAG - Plant health (subject to certification)"
Additional details	- Authorisation number (CHED-PP)
	- Phytosanitary fee (fee code 791)

3. Further information

3.1 Inspection requirement

Fresh plant material that is imported into Switzerland **directly** from a third country or which did not undergo any phytosanitary inspection upon entry into the EU must be inspected by the [Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service](#). The declarant must declare goods subject to inspection to the Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service one working day, at the latest, before the import.

3.2 Fee for import controls at entry points into Switzerland

The declarant must manually enter the phytosanitary inspection fee in the customs declaration. It is levied as part of the customs clearance (section: fees, fee code 791 – phytosanitary fee).

The fee to be levied is generally composed as follows:

Basic fee	CHF 50 per phytosanitary certificate (usually one consignment)
Additional fee	CHF 10 for each item listed on the phytosanitary certificate

Note: The number of declared tariff rows in the customs declaration is not indicative for the calculation of additional fees, but rather the number of items listed in the phytosanitary certificate. The declarant shall be informed about the amount of the fee by the responsible SPPS office.

3.3 Passport requirement

Goods originating from an EU state or Northern Ireland are not subject to phytosanitary checks upon import.

However, all living plants and some plant products must be accompanied by a plant passport¹, but the passport does not have to be entered in the customs declaration. The note "Non-customs provisions: FOAG - Plant health (passport required / prohibitions)" in Tares serves only as an indication that such a passport is required. No corresponding information (plant passport or NZE type code) is required in the customs declaration.

3.4 Import ban

If the phytosanitary risk for specific goods is too high ("high-risk goods"), their import from third countries is prohibited as a precautionary measure. These goods are marked with a "V" in Annex 1 of [Factsheet No. 1](#). For example, the import of seed potatoes, grapevines, citrus plants and soil from all third countries is prohibited.

3.5 Tourist traffic

In tourist traffic, imports from third countries of goods that are subject to inspection and certification requirements are also only possible with a phytosanitary certificate; however, a declaration in TRACES is not necessary in such cases.

¹ The plant passport requirement does not apply to cut flowers, Christmas trees, potatoes and onions for consumption and similar plant products for consumption which are not intended for further cultivation by the customer and do not present a known phytosanitary risk

Exceptions: Pineapples, bananas, coconuts, dates and durians may be imported from all countries to Switzerland without a phytosanitary certificate and without inspection by the Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service.