

Veterinary legislation and animal species protection (CITES Fauna)

1 General

1.1 Legal bases

The Epizootic Diseases Ordinance (EzDO; [RS 916.401](#)), the Ordinance on the Disposal of Animal By-Products (DABO; [RS 916.441.22](#)), Ordinance on the Slaughter of Animals and Meat Inspection (SMIO; [RS 817.190](#)), the Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO; [RS 455.1](#)), the Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products from EU member states, Iceland and Norway (ITEO-EU; [RS 916.443.11](#)), the Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products from Third Countries (ITEO-TC; [RS 916.443.10](#)), Ordinance on Import, Transit and Export of Pets (ITEO-Pet; [RS 916.443.14](#)), the FDHA Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products from EU member states, Iceland and Norway (ITEO-EU-FDHA; [RS 916.443.111](#)), the FDHA Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products from Third Countries (ITEO-TC-FDHA; [RS 916.443.106](#)), the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office Tax Collection Ordinance ([RS 916.472](#)), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES; [RS 0.453](#)), the Federal Act and Ordinance on trade in animals and plants of protected species ([RS 453](#) and [RS 453.0](#)), the FDHA Ordinance on controls for trade in animals and plants of protected species ([RS 453.1](#)); ordinance on control of the lawfulness of the origin of imported marine fishery products (ordinance on control of marine fishery; [SR 453.2](#)).

1.2 Terminology

The abbreviations and terms used in connection with veterinary and species protection legislation under «Additional charges» on the «Display details» page have the following meanings:

VI	Border veterinary control (inspection) / border veterinary inspection fee (tax)
CITES Fauna	Species protection inspections on the basis of CITES Federal Act (Loi fédérale sur la circulation des espèces de faune et de flore protégées; RS 453)
Marine fishery IUU	control of the lawfulness of the origin of imported marine fishery products (ordinance on control of marine fishery; RS 453.2) Authorised (permitted) airports: Border inspection posts at Zurich and Geneva airports
CHED	Common Health Entry Document

1.3. Competence

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

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

2 Border veterinary inspection (control) (VI)

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 states **other than** European Union (EU) member states, Andorra, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Canary Islands, Martinique, Mayotte, Northern Ireland, Norway, Réunion and San Marino

and

- animals set out in chapter 01 of the customs tariff from Iceland.

The inspection is normally carried out upon initial entry into the joint veterinary area of the EU and Switzerland and may therefore also be carried out by EU border inspection posts. The Common Health Entry Document (CHED) proves for importation purposes that an inspection has been carried out and has been passed; it clears the consignment for free circulation and in all cases must accompany the consignment to its destination as specified in the CHED.

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

The majority of animals or animal products must be accompanied by a valid certificate or commercial document and be pre-reported using TRACES. Provision of the required documents is the responsibility of the importer or handling agent. 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 via email 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 set out in chapter 01 of the customs tariff from Iceland. In many cases, however, animals and animal products must be accompanied by a health certificate or a commercial document when crossing the border. The official veterinarian in the country of origin usually has to send an electronic TRACES notification to the cantonal veterinary service at the destination.

Detailed information is available on the FSVO's website (www.blv.admin.ch) or via email 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 office		Tolerance:
	FSVO	provided of animal origin: CHED, authorisation or health certificate necessary (cf. «Remarks», «Veterinary legislation»)	0 kg

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

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

Consignments with cloven-hoofed animals and domestic fowl (tariff headings 0102-0105) require a health certificate.

2.4 Border veterinary inspection

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

Additional charges	Code		Scale				
	290	VI	002	Imported by air via the permitted airports, of ungulates (see «Remarks», «Veterinary legislation»)	CHF min. CHF max. CHF	1.47 88.00 676.00	per 100 kg gross

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

The border veterinary inspection obligation likewise applies to goods in sets with components of animal origin (for exceptions see «Exceptions to the control obligation» below). This applies also if the whole lot is classified in Tares under a tariff number without the note «Additional charges border veterinary inspection» or «FSVO authorisation obligation».

The border veterinary inspection applies to **compound foodstuffs** containing components of animal origin if they:

- contain any amount of meat / meat extracts / meat concentrates (not including fish);
or
- consist of half or more of their substance of any one processed product of animal origin other than meat / meat products / meat extracts / meat concentrates, such as milk products, fishery products, egg preparations, honey, gelatin, collagen, etc.
or
- less than half of their substance consist of one or more other processed product of animal origin, but do not meet one of the following criteria:
 - they can be kept at room temperature, or during manufacture are completely cooked or are subjected to heat treatment so that they no longer contain any raw products;
 - they are clearly marked as being intended for human consumption;
 - they are securely packaged or sealed in clean containers;
 - any milk products included may only come from countries approved for imports and must have been treated accordingly;
 - accompanied by a commercial document; [model commercial document](#);
 - the information above, together with information on the nature of the product, the quantity, the number of packages, the country of origin, the manufacturer and the ingredients, can be obtained from the information on the labelling and the commercial document.

Detailed information is available on the FSVO's website (www.blv.admin.ch) or via email (<mailto:info@blv.admin.ch>).

In case of doubt, the FSVO (Group Third Country Trade) or the border veterinary service in charge will decide whether a specific product is subject to inspection or not.

2.5 Fees (taxes) (see also 3.3)

The fees for border veterinary inspections are listed on the «Display details», «Additional charges» page.

Additional charges	Code		Scale				
	290	VI	002	Imported by air via the permitted airports, of ungulates (see «Remarks», «Veterinary legislation»)	CHF min. CHF max. CHF	1.47 88.00 676.00	per 100 kg gross

If a tariff heading and any statistical key simultaneously stipulate that both a border veterinary inspection fee and a CITES species protection control fee (290 VI, 292 CITES fauna) are due, only the border veterinary inspection fee (290 VI) is payable. Accordingly, only the border veterinary inspection fee (290 VI) is to be declared in the customs declaration.

The fees for inspecting animals and animal products amount to CHF 1.47 per 100 kg gross, with a minimum of CHF 88 and a maximum of CHF 676 per consignment.

Exception: the border veterinary inspection fee for checking animal products (exception: semen, embryo and ova) from New Zealand amounts to CHF 1.14 per 100 kg gross, with a minimum of CHF 68.20 and a maximum of CHF 523.90 per consignment.

For the purposes of VI 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 in the same place of origin, are intended for the same establishment of destination and are listed on the same CHED.

If as a result **one** customs declaration lists several tariff rows with animals or animal products for which several CHED were also issued, the VI fee is calculated individually for each CHED issued. This means that the minimum and maximum are calculated for each CHED.

2.6 Customs declaration

The person subject to the declaration obligation must:

- make a statement in the customs declaration regarding the authorisation requirement;
- enter the number of the CHED, health certificate or FSVO authorisation in e-dec (authorisation number section);
- indicate the number of the CHED, health certificate or FSVO authorisation as follows: e.g. P.CH.2017.1234567 or A.DE.2017.1234567 or 1234/17; only goods from a given CHED, health certificate or FSVO can be declared per tariff row;
- declare the non-customs provisions mandatory code 1 and the non-customs provisions 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 traffic from third countries, animals and animal products subject to inspection can be declared for importation only if the border veterinary inspection took place and the electronic comparison with TRACES or the IETAO information system was successful.

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

- at the request of the customs office;
- animals and animal products from third countries in air and maritime traffic that were declared other than with e-dec;
- all cloven-hoofed animals and domestic fowl (tariff headings 0102-0105) that were declared other than with e-dec.

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

Owing to Switzerland's commercial obligations, the importation of beef from countries where there is no ban on the use of growth-promoting hormones is possible in principle. In contrast these imports are banned by the EU.

In the movement of goods between Switzerland and 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 ([RS 0.916.026.81](#)), border veterinary inspections have not taken place since 1 January 2009. It must therefore be prevented that beef from countries where there is no ban in production on the use of growth-promoting hormones is exported to the EU. The countries of origin concerned are Australia, Canada and the USA. Only fresh,¹ refrigerated or frozen beef is affected. As a rule this is «High Quality Beef».

The Ordinance ITEO-TC ([RS 916.443.10](#)) on the Importation and Transit of Animal Products from Third Countries also regulates the importation of meat from countries with no bans on growth-

¹ cf. stat. keys under headings 0201.2091, 0201.3091, 0202.2091 and 0202.3091; see also: Explanatory notes → Chapter 2 → Particular provisions → [«High Quality Beef»](#) (information available only in German and French).

promoting hormones. The exportation of these meat from the customs territory into EU member states or into customs enclaves is forbidden (Art. 30 [ITEO-EU](#)). Apart from the general customs legislative and non-customs legislative provisions, for the importation of such meat the following **additional** special regulations are applicable:

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 headings 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, 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 ([RS 916.443.106](#)) in the sale and delivery documents. The Federal Office for Customs and Border Security 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 and checks relating to these regulations are incumbent upon the FSVO and the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security.
5. The customs offices at the airports of Zurich and Geneva are responsible for the assessment of 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 customs offices. Being brought to an open customs warehouse or bonded warehouse is only possible if it is recognised by the cantonal office in charge as a storage location for imported goods and has been registered in TRACES. In addition, the open customs warehouse or bonded warehouse must be mentioned explicitly in the joint CHED as the destination.
6. In the import customs declaration, the commitment number of the importer or his recipient and the following remark should be noted: «to be used exclusively in the customs territory».
7. Upon request, the 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 which, although from countries with no ban on growth-promoting hormones, is accompanied by a valid EU health certificate (Art. 9, para. 1 ITEO-TC).

3 Animal species protection (CITES fauna)

3.1 Animals or animal products subject to controls

Protected animal species, parts of such animals and products derived from them are all subject to the provisions on protected species. Protected animal species include:

- Animal species as listed in annexes I to III of CITES ([RS 0.453](#));
- Animal species removed from nature in such quantities or traded in such quantities as to endanger long-term usage of natural stocks;
- Animal species which can be easily confused with animal species listed in annexes I to III of CITES;
- Animals belonging to species for which the provisions of the Federal Act on the Hunting and Protection of Wild Mammals and Birds ([RS 922.0](#)) stipulate an authorisation is required;
- Non-domestic fish and crustacean species, breeds and varieties, for which the provisions of the Federal Act on Fishing ([RS 923.0](#)) stipulate an authorisation is required.

For the importation of such animals and animal-derived products the importer generally requires an authorisation from the FSVO. In addition, such importations are subject to documentation checks and fees, and in most cases will also be physically checked (for further information, consult www.cites.ch).

Animals and animal-derived products subject to control and fees are listed in the CITES Control Ordinance ([RS 453.1](#)). In Tares they are annotated with «CITES Fauna».

CITES general clause

Also subject to **species protection** may be goods from tariff headings whereby on the page «Indicate details» and «Additional charges» no mention is made of **CITES** but which include or contain parts of protected animal species (e.g. clothing with fur trim from protected animal species; caskets with ivory carvings).

Information about control obligations can be obtained from:

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), Schwarzenburgstrasse 155, Liebefeld, CH-3003 Bern, tel. +41 58 462 25 41, <mailto:cites@blv.admin.ch>, www.cites.ch.

3.2 Customs declaration

Importation

When declaring animals and animal-derived products subject to inspection in the e-dec customs declaration, the Non-customs provisions mandatory code «1 yes», the Non-customs provisions type code «200» and the Additional charges code «292» / «001» must be entered (see 3.3).

The importer must submit animals and animal-derived products to a species protection control post for inspection if they are subject to such checks. As a rule, the control posts carry out their species protection inspections (document checks and physical checks) after customs clearance. The person subject to the declaration obligation must therefore provide the following in their customs declaration:

What	Where	How														
species protection control post code number , where the inspection is to take place	« Special remarks » (« Besondere Vermerke ») section in the header data	e.g. CITES01 <table> <thead> <tr> <th>species protection control post</th> <th>Code number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basel</td> <td>CITES01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geneva airport</td> <td>CITES02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zurich airport</td> <td>CITES03</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bern</td> <td>CITES04</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chiasso</td> <td>CITES05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Le Locle</td> <td>CITES07</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	species protection control post	Code number	Basel	CITES01	Geneva airport	CITES02	Zurich airport	CITES03	Bern	CITES04	Chiasso	CITES05	Le Locle	CITES07
species protection control post	Code number															
Basel	CITES01															
Geneva airport	CITES02															
Zurich airport	CITES03															
Bern	CITES04															
Chiasso	CITES05															
Le Locle	CITES07															
FSVO authorisation (if necessary)	« authorisation » (« Bewilligungen ») section	Single authorisation = code 1 General authorisation = code 99 Code 2 (general import authorisation) may not be used with CITES.														
CITES-certificates (for CITES-specimens)	« Documentation » (« Unterlagen ») section	Other (ZZZ), Number, Date, CITES														
Species protection control fee	« Additional charges » (« Zusatzabgaben ») section															

The customs offices forward this information to the selected control office. From that point, the importer has 48 hours to submit the specimens subject to inspection to the selected species protection control post. If the importer fails to submit to the inspection, then the FSVO initiates administrative procedures.

Locations and opening hours of species protection control posts can be found at www.blv.admin.ch/ → Importation et exportation → Importations de l'UE ou Importations de pays tiers → Informations complémentaires → Contrôle de conservation des espèces

Exportation

When declaring animals and animal-derived products subject to inspection in the e-dec customs declaration, the authorisation mandatory code «1 yes», the authority office «FSVO - CITES Fauna» must be entered.

When declaring animals and animal-derived products subject to inspection in the Passar goods declaration, the Restriction «1 yes» and the Restriction code «310 CITES Fauna» must be entered.

For the exportation/re-exportation of animals and animal-derived products subject to CITES, the exporter must submit the required documents for authentication to customs. Customs stamps the documents and indicates in the fields provided the animals or products effectively exported. For further information, refer to www.cites.ch.

Transit

The transit of animals and animal-derived products subject to CITES is subject to an authorisation obligation. The authorisation office is the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO (for further information, refer to www.cites.ch). The transit authorisation must be shown to the customs office upon request.

Bonded warehouses/customs warehouses

Regarding species protection, storage in a customs warehouse or bonded warehouse is treated in the same way as for normal imports.

3.3 Taxes (see also 2.5)

The species protection control fees to be levied are listed on the page «Display details», «Additional charges», e.g. in the case of tariff heading 0407.2990 (Birds' eggs):

Additional charges	Code		Scale				
	292	CITES Fauna	001	of wild birds (see «Remarks», «Veterinary legislation», «CITES")	CHF min. CHF max. CHF	1.47 88.00 676.00	per 100 kg gross

If a tariff heading and any statistical key simultaneously stipulate that both a border veterinary inspection fee and a CITES species protection control fee (290 VI, 292 CITES fauna) are due, only the border veterinary inspection fee (290 VI) is payable. Accordingly, only the border veterinary inspection fee (290 VI) is to be declared in the customs declaration.

For the purposes of CITES fauna 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 in the same place of origin, are intended for the same establishment of destination and are listed on the same CHED.

4 Marine fishery (IUU)

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