



Application for recognition of private-law production guidelines for products obtained using methods banned in Switzerland

On the basis of Art. 9, para. 2 of the Ordinance of 26 November 2003 on the labelling of agricultural products obtained using methods banned in Switzerland ([ALO](#); SR 916.51).

1. Application

- First application** for recognition of private-law production guidelines (the approval process may take up to 12 months¹)

Precise description of the production guidelines:

Type of product:

Country of production of goods (raw ingredients):

- Renewal application** to the first application of²:

Precise description of the production guidelines:

(the approval process for a renewal application may take up to 12 months¹)

2. Importer submitting the application

Name of company:	
Last name, first name of person responsible:	
Address:	
Postal code, town:	
E-mail address:	
Tel.:	

3. Recognition by certification office

Name of company:	
Last name, first name of person responsible:	
Address:	
Postal code, town:	
Country:	
E-mail address:	
Tel.:	

¹ Art. 9, para. 4, ALO.

² If a renewal application is submitted four weeks before the expiry of the existing permit, the FOAG will take a decision on the new application before the existing one expires.

In the case of a **first application or a change of person responsible at the certification office** the following documents from the certification office should be enclosed with the application for recognition:

- a. a copy of the official accreditation document issued by the certification office (prerequisite: official accreditation according to EN ISO/IEC 17065);
- b. written confirmation from the certification office that it meets the requirements set out under Article 11 of the ALO and is aware of the obligations set out under Article 13 of the ALO;
- c. written confirmation from the certification office that the person responsible for certification is familiar with the following Swiss legislation:
 - the Agricultural Labelling Ordinance ([ALO](#); SR 916.51),
 - the ALO Countries List ([ALO Countries List](#); SR 916.511),
 - the Accreditation and Designation Ordinance ([ADO](#); SR 946.512);
 - in addition:
 - in the case of a ban on production methods using non-hormonal substances to enhance performance; the Feed Milk Log Ordinance (FMLO) and its appendices ([FMLO](#); SR 916.307.1). The appendices can be found under the link: [Agroscope Feed Inspection](#);
 - in the case of production methods connected with how animals are kept: the Animal Protection Ordinance ([APO](#); SR 455.1), technical directives issued by the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) on 1 October 2014 concerning structural and qualitative animal protection with regard to laying hens, chickens and breeding hens [FSVO Animal Protection](#), technical directives issued by the Federal Food Safety and veterinary Office (FSVO) on 1 October 2014 concerning structural and qualitative animal protection with regard to rabbits [FSVO Animal Protection](#).

4. Recognition of equivalent private-law production guidelines (first application)

The following documents should be enclosed with the application:

- a) private-law production guidelines that set out a ban on production methods equivalent to that stipulated under Article 2, para. 4, letter a, point 2 and letter b of the ALO;
- b) the certification office's certification programme with regard to production of the goods in question;
- c) the certification office's monitoring programme regarding the separation of flow of goods during processing and trading;
- d) a declaration of equivalence from the certification office confirming equivalence with Swiss legislation (Art. 9 of the ALO). Such a declaration of equivalence is based on the report drawn up following a comprehensive audit under the certification and monitoring programme according to point c. Moreover, the certification office must guarantee compliance with the stipulations of Article 13 of the ALO.

Duration of validity of the declaration of equivalence³:

³ Should the duration of validity of the declaration of equivalence be **at least nine months** at the time the application is submitted, the production guidelines may be recognised for one year, with the reservation that they may be reviewed or revoked. Otherwise, the production guidelines will be recognised only for as long as the declaration of equivalence submitted remains valid.

5. Recognition of equivalent private-law production guidelines (renewal application)

The following documents should be enclosed with the application:

- a) a comprehensive, recent auditor's report from the certification office addressed to the FOAG concerning the checks carried out in compliance with Article 13 of the ALO (annual checks as well as unannounced inspections). The report should be countersigned by the person responsible for the company in question;
- b) written confirmation according to point 3, letter c above if the FOAG has not already been sent such confirmation.

6. General remarks

According to Article 9, para. 2 of the ALO, applications for recognition of private-law production guidelines should be submitted to the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) by the importer of any goods subject to compulsory labelling, using the present application form.

The FOAG will accept the following private-law production guidelines (see Art. 2, para. 4 of the ALO) as equivalent to Swiss regulations:

1. the production of meat without the use of non-hormonal substances 29 April 1998 ([AgricA](#); SR 910.1;). The use of antibiotics and similar substances to enhance performance at any stage of the animal's life is forbidden;
2. the production of rabbit meat whereby the requirements for keeping rabbits as stipulated under Articles 7, 10 para 1, 64 and 65 of the Animal Protection Ordinance of 23 April 2008 ([APO](#); SR 455.1) must be respected from birth to slaughter;
3. the production of eggs whereby the requirements for keeping domestic fowl according to Appendix 1, table 9 of the [APO](#) must be respected.

On the basis of the bilateral agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Union, the latter alone shall be authorised to recognise equivalent production methods using hormonal and non-hormonal substances according to Appendix 4, letter b of the Veterinary Medication Ordinance of 18 August 2004 ([VMO](#); SR 812.212.27). Consequently no private-law production guidelines can be recognised by the FOAG regarding such substances (substances with an oestrogenic, androgenic or gestagenic effect as well as beta blockers aimed at promoting fattening). In Switzerland equivalent production bans according to the ALO Countries List (SR 916.511; [ALO Countries List](#)) and the exceptions indicated under Article 6, para. 2 of the [ALO](#) shall apply. (An official veterinary certificate recognised by the European Union, accompanying the imported goods, shall be accepted as an equivalent ban).

The FOAG shall decide on the question of recognition of private-law production guidelines and issue an administrative order (Art. 9, para. 3 of the ALO). A prerequisite for recognition is that the application in question is fully and truthfully completed and signed by the importer as well as the certification office. All the required documents are to be enclosed with the application. In the case of incomplete application forms, an appropriate period of grace will be granted. Recognition may be subject to certain conditions. A fee will be charged for processing the application and will be based on Article 4, para. 2 of the Ordinance on FOAG charges of 16 June 2006 ([FOAG-ChO](#); SR 910.11).

7. Applicant's confirmation

The undersigned applicant hereby confirms that the information provided on this form is complete and correct. He/She is aware of the fact that, following initial recognition of the production guidelines with a maximum validity of 12 months, an application for renewal must be submitted. If the application for renewal of recognition (see point 1) is submitted at least four weeks before the existing recognition expires, the FOAG will take a decision on the application before the initial recognition expires.

Place and date: _____ Signature: _____

8. Certification office's confirmation

The present application has the backing of the certification office (please tick): Yes No

Place and date: _____ Signature: _____

Documents to be enclosed: see points 3, 4 and 5

This form is to be submitted to the following address, together with the required documents:

Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)
Animal Products and Breeding Unit
Schwarzenburgstrasse 165
3003 Bern
Switzerland

Appendix 1: Information sheet "How to declare production methods that are banned in Switzerland"

Appendix 2: Official certification under the terms of Article 8, para. 2 of the ALO