



Information sheet on hemp

Responsibilities and main contacts (for seeds)

- FOAG when THC < 1.0%
- FOPH when THC ≥ 1.0%

Legal basis for the placing on the market of hemp as propagating material or animal feed

- Ordinance on Propagating Material ([SR 916.151](#))
- Ordinance of the EAER on Seeds and Propagating Material ([SR 916.151.1](#))
- Ordinance on Varieties ([SR 916.151.6](#))
- Ordinance on the Animal Feeds Register ([SR 916.307.1](#))

Authorisation

- Annex 2, Chapter D, Table 4 of the Ordinance of the EAER on Seeds and Propagating Material (SR 916.151.1) sets out the parameters which a variety of hemp must meet in order to be included in the catalogue. The main characteristics are a THC-content of ≤ 0,3 % and a THC/CBD ratio of ≤ 1.
- The [procedure for entry](#) into the Catalogue of Varieties is described in detail on the FOAG website.

Placing on the market

- The Ordinance on Varieties (SR 916.151.6) contains the catalogue of authorised varieties which may be placed on the market in Switzerland for commercial use in agriculture. At the present time (January 2017), no variety of hemp is listed in the Swiss catalogue.
- On the basis of Annex 6, Article 5 of the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on trade in agricultural products (SR 0.916.026.81), propagating material of varieties of hemp which are authorised in the European Community may be placed on the market in Switzerland (Art. 20 (a) and Art. 27, para. 1 (c) of the Ordinance of the EAER on Seeds and Propagating Material, SR 916.151.1). (Link to [EU-Catalogue](#)).
- The FOAG does not issue any specific authorisation in connection with the cultivation of hemp.

Animal feed

Annex 4.1, Section 1 of the Ordinance on the Animal Feeds Register (SR 916.307.1) states that hemp or any type or form of products derived from it may not be used for the production of animal feeds for productive livestock, nor placed on the market as animal feeds for productive livestock, nor be fed to productive livestock.

Direct payments

The cultivation of hemp is not eligible for any kind of subsidy.

Notification requirement

- For agricultural holdings which receive direct payments, hemp is recorded on the FOAG surface area form under code 535.

- At canton level, it is recommended that any plans in connection with the cultivation of hemp should be notified to the competent authorities. In many cantons such notification is mandatory.

Prosecution

Anyone who deliberately imports or places on the market propagating material of a variety of hemp which is not listed in the EU Catalogue of Varieties for commercial use in agriculture is punishable by a fine of up to 40,000 Swiss francs. The penalty for negligence is a fine of up to 10,000 Swiss francs. Prosecution is a matter for the cantons. (Art. 173 para. 1 (I) and para. 2 in conjunction with Art. 175 of the Agriculture Act; SR 910.1)

Federal Office for Agriculture

Contact: phyto@blw.admin.ch