

ANNEX

Response of the Competent Authorities of Switzerland to the recommendations of Report ref. DG(SANCO)/2013-6887-MR of an audit carried out from 26 February to 08 March 2013 in order to evaluate the control systems pertaining to food safety aspects in relation to certain animal products (meat, meat products, meat preparation and minced meat - mammalian origin) under the auspices of the agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on Trade in Agricultural Products

N°.	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority
1	To take appropriate action to ensure that information on official controls and enforcement actions are gathered by the Central Competent Authority from all the cantons in line with Article 36 of the Swiss Law on Foodstuffs (Lebensmittelgesetz, LMG) in order to verify that the effectiveness of the official controls are continued and finalised more timely.	<p>We are currently drafting a report on 2012 site inspections (process controls) from data collected in the IS_LMS (<i>Informationssystem Lebensmittelsicherheit</i>) data management system in order to obtain an overview of the reasons for non-compliance and of the measures taken. This report will be available in October 2013.</p> <p>With regard to the effectiveness of controls, the Food Safety Department of the Federal Office of Public Health (FSD FOPH) will ask the cantons (at the next meeting with the Swiss Association of Cantonal Chemists (VKCS) in September 2013) to record the follow-up inspections in a systematic way. Together with the cantons, it will specify which data are to be recorded and passed on to the FOPH in future via the IS_LMS data management system.</p> <p>The central electronic business administration programme for veterinary services, which is currently being set up, will permit the central authorities to view the inspection activities of the cantonal authorities and so it will be possible to monitor frequency compliance.</p>
2	To ensure that the actions in the process of implementation are taken more timely in order that official controls are carried out with the frequencies established in accordance with Article 56 of the Swiss Ordinance on food and commodities (Lebensmittel-	<p>The revised VKCS document of 13 May 2013 ("Determining the frequencies for inspecting food establishments on the basis of statistical and dynamic criteria") is available at the FOPH website: http://www.bag.admin.ch/themen/lebensmittel/04865/04892/index.html?</p>

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	und Gebrauchsgegenständeverordnung, LGV) and Article 54 of the Swiss Ordinance on slaughter and meat inspection (Verordnung über das Schlachten und die Fleischkontrolle, VSFK).	<p>lang=de. It contains the basic frequencies, i.e. the deadline/maximum period until the next (basic) inspection. At present, these deadlines are not legally binding. The necessary legal basis will be provided by the current recasting of the Food Act (<i>Lebensmittelgesetz</i>, LMG). The amended LMG, including the revised Ordinance provisions, is expected to enter into force at the start of 2015.</p> <p>The frequencies for annual inspections of slaughterhouses are specified in the Ordinance on slaughter and meat inspection (VSFK). At one of the conferences this year, the cantonal veterinary authorities will be asked to comply with these frequencies. Additional focus will be given by the "operating licences" audit to be conducted by the Federal Food Chain Unit (BLK).</p>
3	To take appropriate action in cases where non-compliances are identified in order to ensure that the operator remedies the situation as required by Article 56 of the Swiss Ordinance on enforcement of food legislation (Verordnung des EDI über den Vollzug der Lebensmittelgesetzgebung). The follow-up action taken should be documented in order to allow the effectiveness of the enforcement action be verified.	At its next meeting with the VKCS in September 2013, the FSD FOPH will ask the cantons to conduct and document the follow-up inspections systematically. See also Recommendation 1.
4	To ensure that all listed food businesses in all cantons have a valid approval obtained in accordance with the requirements of	Notice of an "operating licences" audit to be conducted by the Federal Food Chain Unit (BLK) has been given to the cantons. The audit is due

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	Article 31 of Regulation (EC) 882/2004 and comply with the relevant Swiss requirements as quoted in Chapter I, appendix 6 of Annex 11 to the Agreement.	to start in September 2013. During the audit, the processes at federal and cantonal level will be re-verified and appropriate measures taken.
5	To ensure that identification markings on products are applied in accordance with the requirements of Article 30 of the Swiss Ordinance on Identification and Advertising of Foodstuffs (Verordnung des EDI über die Kennzeichnung und Anpreisung von Lebensmitteln, LKV).	At its next meeting with the VKCS in September 2013, the FSD FOPH will once again draw the attention of the enforcement authorities in the cantons to these problems. At a meeting with the Swiss Professional Association for Meat at the end of September, the meat sector will also be informed that it is required to apply identification markings properly.
6	In relation to internal or external audits carried out in accordance with Article 4 (6) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, to take appropriate measures in the light of their results, in all cantons, so as to ensure that they are achieving the objectives of this Regulation.	The Federal Food Chain Unit conducts audits in the cantons on behalf of the SFVO and the FOPH. In particular, the "operating licences" audit will start in September 2013. Following this, the necessary measures will be taken.