Food safety and food law enforcement in Switzerland
How does it work?
Consumer safety in Switzerland
Goals and purpose of food law

- To protect consumer health
- To protect the consumer against frauds
- To ensure food handling under good hygiene conditions
Consumer safety in Switzerland

_Scope of food law_

The regulation applies to:

- Food, food production and food handling
- Agricultural practices
- Commodities and common goods
Food law enforcement in Switzerland

Global organization

- Federal department of home affairs
- Federal department for economic affairs
- Federal office of public health
- Federal veterinary office
- Federal office for agriculture
- Cantonal food chemist
- Cantonal official veterinarian
- Cantonal office for agriculture
## Food law enforcement in Switzerland

### Food control at the canton level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cantonal official veterinarian</th>
<th>Cantonal food control authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoonoses prevention</td>
<td>Control of food products (including meat, meat products and water)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of milk production</td>
<td>Control of hygiene at factories, stores, restaurants, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of animal breeding</td>
<td>Control of food production, HACCP and own-check systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of animals before and after slaughtering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of slaughter-houses hygiene</td>
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</tbody>
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**SLAUGHTER-HOUSE DOOR**
Food law enforcement in Switzerland
The advantages of a decentralized system

Think global, act local!

- Proximity of food premises
- Small reaction time in case of emergency
- Good knowledge of regional food trade
- Easy access to regional courts of justice for prosecution
- Sharing of scientific competences through networking

3 federal offices (regulation)
20 cantonal food control authorities (enforcement)
Food law enforcement in Switzerland

Current problems

Federal office of public health
- Food safety
- Food authenticity

Federal veterinary office
- Zoonoses prevention
- Prevention of contamination of meat and animal products

Federal office for agriculture
- Primary production
- Organic foods
- Geographic labels
- Specific labels

Customs
- Imported goods

Federal office of environment
- Water pollution
- Soil contamination

Association of swiss cantonal chemists
(Board of directors of cantonal food control authorities)

Too many points of contact for enforcement authorities
Cantonal food control authorities

Some data

Laboratory technicians: ~ 200 Full Time Equivalents

Inspectors and management: ~ 150 FTE

Costs: ~ 80 Mio CHF

All laboratories and inspection bodies are accredited

ISO 17'020

ISO 17'025
Food analyses
*Main topics and techniques*

Species identification
Composition
Additives
GMO’s
Irradiation
Contaminants
Micro-organisms

Molecular biology
Chemical analyses
Biochemical analyses
Spectroscopies
Separation techniques

Swiss official food chemists association
Food analyses

Causes of non compliance

Annually ~ 110’000 samples analysed
Roughly 15% cases of non compliance
Main tasks of the inspectorate

*Enforcement of food safety*

**Inspection of the production**
- HACCP concepts and own-check systems
- Quality control documents
- Tracability
- Alert and withdrawal procedures
- Training of staff
- Handling and processing

**Inspection of the premises**
- Environment
- Buildings
- Equipments and devices

**Inspection of the products**
- Storage
- Labelling
- Sampling for analyses
Inspection of food businesses
Level of danger according to business categories

~ 46’000 inspections (without primary producers and occasional importers)
Risk based inspections
Categorization of food businesses

DYNAMIC COMPONENT OF RISK
« Level of danger » (data gathered through inspections)

⇒

STATIC COMPONENT OF RISK
« Importance of business » (data related to business size and food type)

3 Categories (low, medium or high risk businesses) corresponding to increasing inspection frequencies

Risk 1 : 43%
Risk 2 : 52%
Risk 3 : 5%
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!