



- To the cantonal enforcement authorities responsible for establishments recommended to China
- To establishments recommended for exporting to China

Bern, 05.11.2018

Instruction:

Exporting of pig meat¹ to the People's Republic of China

Note: The FSVO accepts no liability for the currency or completeness of the legal provisions of the country of destination listed in this document.

1 Starting position

The Chinese authority for the licensing of importing establishments visited Switzerland during two inspections in 2012 and 2017. On each occasion, establishments interested in exporting to China were inspected.

Besides making recommendations for individual establishments, the Chinese authorities also recommended that the central authority issue clear guidance for the monitoring of establishments exporting to China. The purpose of this specific guidance is to ensure compliance with Chinese statutory requirements, especially for products such as pigs' feet, ears and tails (by-products fit for human consumption), for which in some cases there are no specific regulations in Switzerland.

This document describes the process followed by the Federal authority (FSVO) for recommending establishments to export pig meat to China.

¹ Pig meat as defined in Article 13 of the Protocol between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland of 25 September 2008 on health requirements for pig meat and pig meat products from Switzerland to be exported to the People's Republic of China.

The guidance in this document is addressed to establishments recommended by the FSVO and to the cantonal enforcement authorities responsible for those establishments.

2 Legal bases

Slaughtering, cutting and processing establishments wishing to export pig meat to China must be licensed in accordance with Article 6 of the Ordinance on Slaughter and Meat Inspections (VSFK, SR 817.190) and Article 21 of the Ordinance on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (FUAO, SR 817.02).

Slaughtering, cutting and processing are subject to the provisions of Swiss legislation on animal welfare, animal health and foodstuffs. These provisions also apply to by-products fit for human consumption.

Exporting of food and the monitoring and licensing of exporting establishments are subject to the provisions of Articles 3 and 38 of the Foodstuffs Act (FoodA, SR 817.0), Articles 29 and 30 of the Ordinance on the Implementation of Foodstuffs Legislation (FLIO, SR 817.042) and, for exporting to third countries, Articles 47–51 of the Ordinance on the Import, Transit and Export of Animals and Animal Products in exchanges with Third Countries (ITEO-TC, SR 916.443.10). According to Article 51 ITEO-TC, the FSVO maintains a list of exporting establishments licensed by the cantonal enforcement authorities.

For the purpose of exporting pig meat to China, the following specific Chinese standards apply:

GB 12694-2016	National Food Safety Standard - Hygiene standards for slaughterhouses and cutting plants
GB 2707-2016	National Food Safety Standard - Hygiene standards for fresh (frozen) meat
GB 2762-2017	National Food Safety Standard - Maximum levels of contaminants in foods
GB 20799-2016	National Food Safety Standard - Operation hygiene standards for meat and meat products
GB 14881-2013	National Food Safety Standard - General hygiene regulations for food production
GB 31621-2014	National Food Safety Standard - Food operation hygiene standards
GB 50317-2009	Regulations for the construction of operating premises for the slaughtering and cutting of pigs
GB/T 19479-2004	GHP [Good Hygiene Practice] for pig slaughtering
GB/T 17236-2008	Operating procedures of pig slaughtering
GB/T 20575-2006	Good manufacturing practice for fresh and frozen meat processing
NY/T 632-2002	Chilled pork
GB/T 17996-1999	Regulations for quality inspection of pig slaughtering
GB 5749-2006	Standards for drinking water quality

3 Instruction

According to Article 42 para. 3 letters b and c FoodA and Article 8 para. 1 FLIO, the Federal Government may prescribe specific measures or issue instructions to the cantonal enforcement authorities for the purpose of coordinating enforcement. In order to ensure the conformity and safety of pig meat intended for export to China, this instruction therefore covers the following topics:

1. Comparison of Swiss and Chinese legislation containing requirements for meat-processing establishments, with a list of similarities and differences (GAP analysis)

2. Official monitoring of establishments recommended by the FSVO for exporting to China (including inspection checklists)
3. Training in relation to Chinese legislation
4. FSVO process flow for recommending establishments to export pig meat to China
5. FSVO information strategy for notification of third country authorities in the event of withdrawal or suspension of establishments recommended for exporting to China

3.1 GAP analysis

To be able to compare Swiss and Chinese legal provisions on the slaughtering, cutting, processing, storage and transport of pig meat, establishments interested in exporting should draw up and maintain a summary table (GAP analysis) based on the applicable statutory provisions of Switzerland and China. In this summary table, the provisions are compared and analysed. Similarities and differences are made visible (see other applicable documents).

Establishments recommended for exporting should review the table regularly in cooperation with the competent enforcement authorities and the FSVO to ensure that it is up to date and, if necessary, adapt it in line with the new circumstances.

3.2 Official monitoring of recommended establishments

Based on the GAP analysis, checklists are drawn up for the monitoring of establishments recommended for exporting (see other applicable documents). These checklists also contain specific requirements relating to by-products fit for human consumption.

Recommended establishments are instructed to implement the points listed in the checklists. Specific requirements are also laid down for the microbiological testing of by-products fit for human consumption (see other applicable documents). Recommended establishments should implement these within the context of self-inspection.

The Chinese authorities require that establishments recommended for exporting to China be inspected annually. The cantonal enforcement authorities conduct these inspections in addition to risk-based inspection under Swiss legislation. Inspections are subject to fees for recommended establishments in accordance with Article 13 FLIO.

If all of the requirements are fulfilled, the competent cantonal enforcement authority certifies that China's specific requirements are met (Article 30 FLIO).

3.3 Training in relation to Chinese legislation

Establishments recommended for exporting should provide regular training in relation to Chinese legislation for employees handling foodstuffs for export to China. This training is based on the GAP analysis, checklists and further requirements in this guidance document. A certificate is available for this training (self-inspection documentation).

Conducting this training is a prerequisite for recommendation and is monitored by the cantonal enforcement authority.

3.4 Overview of the process for recommending establishments to export pig meat

The process for recommending establishments to export pig meat to China includes the following steps (see other applicable documents):

1. The establishment reports its interest to the competent cantonal enforcement authority and the FSVO by submitting a written application;
2. The FSVO checks with the competent cantonal enforcement authority that the establishment is approved in principle as an exporting establishment;
3. The establishment makes sure that all requirements (GAP analysis, checklists, microbiological tests, training) have been carried out and fulfilled;
4. The competent cantonal enforcement authority inspects the interested establishment in accordance with China's specific requirements and draws up an inspection report;
5. The competent cantonal enforcement authority certifies to the FSVO that the establishment meets the specific Chinese requirements for the exporting of pig meat;
6. The establishment submits the documents required for registration to the competent cantonal enforcement authority and the FSVO;
7. The competent cantonal enforcement authority and the FSVO examine the documents and certify that they are correct;
8. The FSVO recommends the establishment by submitting a written application to the Chinese authority;
9. The Chinese authority examines all of the documents and decides whether to register the establishment on the Chinese list;
10. In accordance with Article 51 ITEO-TC, Switzerland maintains a publicly accessible list of establishments approved for exporting to China, <https://www.blv.admin.ch/blv/en/home/import-und-export/export/tiere-und-tierprodukte/export-von-tieren-und-tierprodukten-in-drittstaaten.html>

3.5 FSVO information strategy for notification of third country authorities

The Foodstuffs Act stipulates that holders of goods may only place safe foodstuffs on the market. Foodstuffs are deemed to be unsafe if it must be assumed that they are harmful to health or unsuitable for human consumption (Article 7 para. 1 and 2 FoodA).

Information letter 2017/5 of 16.08.2017 explains the obligation to take back or recall goods and to inform the authorities if a sale of foodstuffs or utility articles which are hazardous to health pursuant to Article 84 FUAO is detected or is suspected to have taken place (see other applicable documents). Establishments recommended for exporting to China must implement these requirements within the context of self-inspection. In addition, they must immediately inform the competent cantonal enforcement authority if it is suspected that the foodstuffs concerned have also been exported to China. The cantons inform the FSVO in turn.

The FSVO notifies the third country authority. An appropriate note is made on the publicly accessible list of establishments approved for exporting to China.

The FSVO also informs the Chinese authorities immediately if it is suspected that the agreed health requirements can no longer be met, e.g. in the event of an outbreak of an animal disease in Switzerland (Articles 11 and 12 of the Protocol between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland).

4 Other applicable documents

- 4.1 Protocol between the People's Republic of China and Switzerland of 25 September 2008 on health requirements for pig meat and pig meat products from Switzerland to be exported to the People's Republic of China
- 4.2 Summary table comparing relevant Swiss and Chinese provisions (GAP analysis)
- 4.3 Overview of process for recommending establishments for the exporting of pig meat to China
- 4.4 Checklist on slaughtering, cutting / processing, storage / transport for official monitoring of establishments recommended for exporting to China
- 4.5 Guidelines for the microbiological testing of pig meat intended for export to China
- 4.6 Information letter 2017/5 of 16.08.2017

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