

Exporting to Switzerland – Information note for operations outside Switzerland

Information note for operations outside Switzerland (version 01/2020)

1. Swiss importer: requirement for initial certification

As a general rule, applications for certification of an operation outside Switzerland are submitted by an importer in Switzerland who has a licence contract with Bio Suisse. This provides the ideal basis for allowing the imported product to then actually be marketed with the "Bud" label in Switzerland.

2. Certification to Bio Suisse standards

The basic requirement for certifying an operation outside Switzerland to Bio Suisse standards is an existing certification according to EU organic regulations or an equivalent regulation, as well as compliance with the Bio Suisse standards.

- Bio Suisse Standards (general): <http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/downloads.php>
- Except from the Bio Suisse Standards, part V: Standards for Imports: <http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/downloads.php>
- Information note Summary of Bio Suisse Standards: <http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/downloads.php>

Only the following two Swiss certification bodies are authorized to certify operations to Bio Suisse standards:

- International Certification Bio Suisse AG (ICB) – a subsidiary of Bio Suisse (www.icbag.ch)
- bio.inspecta AG (www.bio-inspecta.ch)

ICB works with regional and international inspection bodies. bio.inspecta only certifies operations which are inspected by themselves or by an approved inspection body (by Bio Suisse) in a subcontract. The non-Swiss inspection body which is responsible for EU organic or equivalent organic inspection and certification must also carry out the Bio Suisse inspection and send the necessary documents to the responsible Swiss certification body for certification to Bio Suisse Standards.

- Authorized Swiss certification bodies and non-Swiss inspection bodies: http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/import_with_biosuisse.php

Certification to Bio Suisse standards must be renewed annually. In order to ensure a smooth certification process, the inspection documents must be received on time by the responsible Swiss certification body. Processing the documents usually takes, for example, four to six weeks with ICB AG.

Exception: Members of producer associations directly approved by Bio Suisse in Germany and in Austria (see Bio Suisse standards, appendix to part V art. 3.1.7).

3. Bio Suisse import restrictions

Bio Suisse import restrictions are regulated by the Bio Suisse Standards Part V, chap. 2. This includes a prohibition on air transport, restrictions on processing outside of Switzerland, restrictions on imports in cases of sufficient domestic production, and restrictions on the import of fresh products from overseas.

4. Declaration requirement for products from outside of Switzerland

BIOSUISSE
ORGANIC

Products certified according to Bio Suisse standards for export to Switzerland must be declared as "BIOSUISSE ORGANIC" by means of a designation or logo on containers, delivery notes and invoices.

All products certified as “in conversion” according to the Bio Suisse standards must be clearly labelled as “in-conversion products”.

Certification to Bio Suisse standards does not grant permission for products to carry the "Bud" collective trademark. This is exclusively granted to the Swiss importer with a valid trademark licence agreement with Bio Suisse.

- Information note “Declaration of conformity with Bio Suisse standards”:
<http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/downloads.php>

5. Traceability attestation for BIOSUISSE ORGANIC products

All products delivered to Switzerland that are to be sold under the Bio Suisse “Bud” trademark must be declared through the electronic system Supply Chain Monitor (SCM) of Bio Suisse and confirmed by Bio Suisse.

Further information can be found under the following link: <https://international.biosuisse.ch/en/homepage>

If you have questions, please consult our homepage http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/import_with_biosuisse.php or contact us at import@bio-suisse.ch or +41 61 204 66 44.