



Trade in agricultural products

Since 1 January 2021, the Agreement on Agriculture between Switzerland and the EU⁷ no longer applies to the UK. Under the trade agreement between Switzerland and the UK, existing mutual rights and obligations in the Agreement on Agriculture between Switzerland and the EU still apply as far as possible.

This affects the various areas (annexes) of the Agreement on Agriculture in different ways:

Agreement on Agriculture Annexes 1–3, 7, 10, 12:

In the areas of the Agreement on Agriculture between Switzerland and the EU that are not based on harmonisation of legislation or recognition of regulations equivalence between Switzerland and the EU (customs quotas, free trade in cheese, geographical indications, wine and spirits, marketing standards for fresh fruit and vegetables), bilateral solutions have been agreed with the UK based on the Agreement on Agriculture between Switzerland and the EU. Trade relations in these areas can essentially be continued as prior to 1 January 2021.

A temporary solution could be found to Annex 9 of the CH-EU Agreement on Agriculture concerning agricultural products and foodstuffs from organic farming, thereby ensuring uninterrupted trade in such products up to the end of 2022. Since the UK has adopted EU legislation in this area, it continues to recognise corresponding Swiss regulations as equivalent and Switzerland recognises those UK bodies that continue to conduct checks and certify according to EU regulations. Both countries would like to agree a long-term solution for this area.

The rules of origin applicable to Annexes 1-3 of the Agreement on Agriculture refer to Protocol No 3 of the Free Trade Agreement (see note on Preferential Rules of Origin [Protocol No 3 Swiss-EU Free Trade Agreement]).

Agreement on Agriculture Annexes 4–6:

Since legislation or recognition of the equivalence of regulations between Switzerland and the EU is harmonised in these non-tariff areas, the status quo ante for the areas covered by these annexes (plant protection, feedstuffs, seeds) could be maintained. It is only possible to import feed from the UK if the corresponding Swiss regulations are met. Only feedstuffs marketable in Switzerland may be imported. The same is true for seeds. Plants and plant products listed in Annex 5 Part B of the Plant Protection Ordinance require a plant protection certificate, involving notification of the Federal Plant Protection Service prior to import and a phytosanitary inspection upon entry into Switzerland. For import consignments entering Switzerland by land, these controls are carried out at the point of entry into the Switzerland-EU common phytosanitary area (e.g. France, Belgium or the Netherlands depending on the route and means of transport used), as is the case for goods from other third countries.

If you have any questions about this topic, please contact:

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⁷ [SR 916.026.81](#)