



# Switzerland: Animal Tracking Provisions in the Animal Disease Act

April 2004

LL File No. 2004-00640  
LRA-D-PUB-000145

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**SWITZERLAND**

**ANIMAL TRACKING PROVISIONS IN THE ANIMAL DISEASE ACT**

Since 1999, animal tracking provisions have been in effect in articles 14 through 16 of the Swiss Contagious Animal Disease Act.<sup>1</sup> These provisions are further implemented by detailed rules in articles 7 through 15 of the Regulation on Contagious Animal Disease.<sup>2</sup> The statutory provisions translate as follows:

**Art. 14. Identification and Registration**

- (1) Each animal of the genus cattle, sheep, goat, or pig must be marked and registered
- (2) The Federation, supported by cantonal information, maintains a register of all enterprises that keep animals of the genus cattle, sheep, goat, or pig
- (3) The animal keeper must maintain a register of the animals of the genus cattle, sheep, goat or pig that are kept in his enterprise. He must provide information on all changes in his stock as well as all artificial or natural inseminations
- (4) The Federal Cabinet shall regulate the keeping of the register and the marking of the animals, while being authorized to provide for exceptions to these duties.

**Art. 15. Accompanying Document**

- (1) The animal keeper must issue an accompanying document for each animal of the genus cattle, sheep, goat, or pig that leaves his enterprise. This document must accompany the animals and be handed over to the new animal keeper. During transportation and at markets or exhibitions, the accompanying document must be shown to the agents of the animal disease, food safety, or agricultural police, upon their request. In slaughtering facilities the document must be delivered to the meat inspector.
- (2) The Federal Cabinet shall regulate form and content of the accompanying document. It may be provided that the accompanying document.
  - (a) must be issued by an authority designated by the canton, in areas with an increased risk of epizootic disease
  - (b) need not be issued or need not accompany the animal in certain cases.

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<sup>1</sup> Tierseuchengesetz [TSG, Act on Contagious Animal Disease], Jul. 1, 1966, SYSTEMATISCHE SAMMLUNG DES BUNDESRECHTS [SR] no. 916.40, arts. 14 through 17, as last amended by Bundesgesetz, Jun. 26, 1998, AMTLICHE SAMMLUNG DES BUNDESRECHTS [AS] 199 at 1347; effective date Jul. 1, 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Tierseuchenverordnung, Jun. 27, 1995, SR no. 916.401, articles 7 through 15, as last amended by Verordnung, Mar. 28, 2001, AS 2001 at 1337.

**Art. 15 (a). Central Database**

- (1) Traffic in animals of the genus cattle, sheep, goat, or pig must be recorded in a central database
- (2) The animal keepers are required to notify the authority designated by the canton of all acquisitions and disposals of animals
- (3) The Federation may operate the database or have it operated by a third party
- (4) The Federal Cabinet shall determine the requirements for the content, operation, and quality of the database and regulate the conditions for access and the use of data.

**Art. 15 (b). Costs of the Database**

- (1) The costs of marking and registration shall be borne by the animal keeper
- (2) The cost of establishing the database shall be borne by the Federation. The operating costs shall be covered, in principle, by fees of the animal keepers. The fees shall be determined by the Federal Cabinet.

**Art. 16. Expansion of Controls**

The Federal Cabinet may expand the governance of the provisions of articles 14 and 15 to other types of animals if these constitute a danger in the transmission of disease or if the origin of animal-based food must be traced.