



CH-3003 Berne, FOAG, bef

**Certification Bodies recognized for
Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian
Federation and China**

Our reference: bef
Contact person: Florence Bernasconi
Berne, 23. December 2019

Dear Madam, dear Sir

The European Commission, with the letter concerning additional official controls on products originating from Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Russian Federation (Ref. Ares (2019)7619387) and the letter concerning additional official controls on products originating from China (Ref Ares (2019)7616255) revised the additional control and reporting measures for certain groups of organic products grown and processed in defined countries.

Switzerland shares its basic import provisions for organic products with the EU. Switzerland aims to maintain equivalent requirements and modalities with the European Union regarding imports from third countries and is focused on the prevention of pesticide residues and fraud in imported organic products.

Therefore, the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) has decided that the revised control and reporting measures as described in the official letters (s. enclosures) of the European Commission for the year 2020 shall also apply for imports to Switzerland, for the control bodies recognized by the FOAG as equivalent according to art. 23a of the Organic Farming Ordinance (SR 910.18) for Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation and China.

Please note that the measures will apply from January 1, 2020.

In compliance with art. 23a of the Organic Farming Ordinance (SR 910.18) relating to recognition of your certification body by Switzerland, the FOAG can request all additional information which is considers necessary.

Therefore please be advised that we expect your organisation to fully comply with the measures as outlined in the letters of the European Commission also for exports to Switzerland. The changes to the additional control and reporting measures apply with immediate effect.

Yours sincerely

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG



Patrik Aebi

Head of Quality and Sales Promotion Unit

Enclosures:

- Letter I European Commission (Ref. Ares (2019)7619387)
- Letter II European Commission (Ref Ares (2019)7616255)