



Government of Switzerland submission in response to CBD Notification 2017-087

inviting parties and other governments to submit practical guidance on specific measures for contained use of living modified organisms that effectively limit their contact with and impacts on the external environment

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For: secretariat@cbd.int

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Notification Contained use

Switzerland thanks the COP MOP for the opportunity to submit guidelines on measures to refrain the possible contact with and impact of LMOs' on the environment according to the decision decision VIII/17 and the following notification 2017-087 dated 8 September 2017 .

Following the point 6 of the decision VIII/17 which *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in the context of operational objective 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House practical guidance on specific measures for contained use that effectively limit the contact of living modified organisms with, and their impact on, the external environment, Switzerland would like to share with other parties the national developed instruments enabling the environmental risk assessment for LMO used in contained systems, as well as the compulsory measures to be taken according to the evaluated risks.

Swiss Context:

A first contained use regulation had been developed in Switzerland in 1999, following the worldwide biosafety concerns of the research around 1985.

In 2003, general provision for the use of organisms were given by the Environment protection Act (<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19830267/201801010000/814.01.pdf>). In 2003 the gene technology Act <http://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/19996136/index.html>, established further principles, especially for the use of LMO. Those are in particular to protect the health and safety of human beings, animals and the environment, to conserve biological diversity and

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the fertility of the soil permanently, to ensure respect for the dignity of living beings and enable freedom of choice for consumers.

Actually, the Ordinance on Handling Organisms in Contained Systems (<https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20100803/201506010000/814.912.pdf>) implements further concrete measures for the use of LMO in contained use.

The above mentioned Ordinance is intended to protect human beings, animals and the environment, as well as biological diversity and its sustainable use, from hazards or harm caused by handling organisms, their metabolic products and wastes in contained systems. The measures to be applied are bound to the risk of the activity performed in contained use. The Swiss regulation require any person who handles organisms in contained systems, must first determine and assess the risk of the occurrence of the organisms (allocate the organisms to a group) and thereafter determine and assess the risk due to the planned activities with the organisms (classify the activities).

The containment obligations, in particular the technical and organisational measures to be applied, are legally binding, and therefore incremented within the ordinance (Annex 4 <https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20100803/index.html#app8>).

To help the users in their duty and harmonizing enforcement by authorities, joint guidelines are made available on the implementation of this Ordinance, in particular on the determination and assessment of the risks posed by the organisms (pathogenicity) or activities with organisms (enhancement of traits), the use of safety cabinets, and related quality controls. All document are publicly available on the following addresses:

- Safety measures in medical microbiology diagnostic laboratories <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/biotechnology/publications-studies/publications/medical-microbiology-diagnostic-laboratories.html>
- Classification of Organisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites) <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/biotechnology/publications-studies/publications/classification-of-organisms.html>
- Biosafety Officers (BSO). Status, duties and responsibilities <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/biotechnology/publications-studies/publications/biosafety-officers-bso.html>
- Safety measures for Green Houses (only in German and French) <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/biotechnology/publications-studies/publications/sicherheitsmassnahmen-fuer-gewaechshaeuser.html>
- Safety measures in medical microbiology diagnostic laboratories <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/biotechnology/publications-studies/publications/medical-microbiology-diagnostic-laboratories.html>
- Microbial safety cabinets <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/biotechnology/publications-studies/publications/microbiological-safety-cabinets-msc.html>

Please accept, Madam, Sir, the assurances of our highest consideration

On behalf of Switerland
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