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**Ordinance  
on the Reduction of Risks relating to  
the Use of Certain Particularly Dangerous  
Substances, Preparations and Articles  
(Chemical Risk Reduction Ordinance, ORRChem)**

of 18 May 2005 (Status as of 1 May 2022)

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*The Swiss Federal Council,*

on the basis of Articles 2 paragraph 4, 19, 22 paragraph 2, 24, 38, 39 paragraph 2, 44 paragraph 2, 45 paragraphs 2 and 5 and 46 paragraph 1 of the Chemicals Act of 15 December 2000<sup>1</sup> (ChemA),

on the basis of Articles 27 paragraph 2, 29, 30a, 30b, 30c paragraph 3, 30d, 32a<sup>bis</sup>, 38 paragraph 3, 39 paragraphs 1 and 1<sup>bis</sup>, 41 paragraph 3, 44 paragraphs 2 and 3, 46 paragraphs 2 and 3, and 48 paragraph 2 of the Environmental Protection Act of 7 October 1983<sup>2</sup> (EPA),

on the basis of Articles 9 paragraph 2 letter c, 27 paragraph 2 and 48 paragraph 2 of the Waters Protection Act of 24 January 1991<sup>3</sup>,

on the basis of Article 15 paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Foodstuffs Act of 20 June 2014<sup>4</sup>, and of Article 56 paragraph 2 of the Energy Act of 30 September 2016<sup>5</sup> (EnA), and in implementation of the Federal Act of 6 October 1995<sup>6</sup> on Technical Barriers to Trade,<sup>7</sup>

*ordains:*

## **Chapter 1    General Provisions**

**Art. 1**            Purpose and scope

<sup>1</sup> This Ordinance:

- a. prohibits or restricts the use of the particularly dangerous substances, preparations and articles covered by the Annexes;

AS 2005 2917

1    SR 813.1

2    SR 814.01

3    SR 814.20

4    SR 817.0

5    SR 730.0

6    SR 946.51

7    Amended by No I of the O of 23 Feb. 2022, in force since 1 April 2022 (AS 2022 162).

- b. specifies the personal and professional qualifications required for the use of certain particularly dangerous substances, preparations and articles.

<sup>2</sup> Without prejudice to specific disposal requirements laid down in this Ordinance, substances, preparations and articles which are waste, as defined in Article 7 paragraph 6 EPA, are subject to:

- a.<sup>8</sup> the Waste Management Ordinance of 4 December 2015<sup>9</sup>;
- b.<sup>10</sup> the Ordinance of 22 June 2005<sup>11</sup> on Movements of Waste; and
- c. the Ordinance of 14 January 1998<sup>12</sup> on the Return, Take-Back and Disposal of Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

<sup>3</sup> This Ordinance does not apply to:

- a. the transport of substances, preparations and articles by road, rail, water, air or pipelines;
- b.<sup>13</sup> the transit of substances, preparations and articles under customs supervision, provided that they do not undergo any processing or transformation.

## Art. 2 Definitions

In this Ordinance, without prejudice to specific definitions given in the Annexes:<sup>14</sup>

- a. *manufacturer* means any natural or legal person who manufactures, extracts or imports substances, preparations or articles on a professional or commercial basis; also deemed to be a manufacturer is any person who obtains substances, preparations or articles in Switzerland and supplies them on a professional or commercial basis, without altering their composition, under his own trade name or for some other purpose; if a person arranges for the manufacture of a substance, preparation or article in Switzerland by a third party, this person is deemed to be the sole manufacturer if he is domiciled or has a registered office in Switzerland;
- b. *trader* means any natural or legal person who obtains substances, preparations or articles in Switzerland and supplies them on a commercial basis without altering their composition.

<sup>8</sup> Amended by Annex 6 No 11 of the Waste Management Ordinance of 4 Dec. 2015, in force since 1 Jan. 2016 (AS 2015 5699).

<sup>9</sup> SR 814.600

<sup>10</sup> Amended by Annex 3 No II 8 of the O of 22 June 2005 on Movements of Waste, in force since 1 Jan. 2006 (AS 2005 4199).

<sup>11</sup> SR 814.610

<sup>12</sup> SR 814.620

<sup>13</sup> Amended by Annex 4 No 45 of the Customs Ordinance of 1 Nov. 2006, in force since 1 May 2007 (AS 2007 1469).

<sup>14</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 7 Nov. 2012, in force since 1 Dec. 2012 (AS 2012 6161).

## Chapter 2 Use of Substances, Preparations and Articles

### Section 1 Restrictions, Prohibitions and Exemptions

#### Art. 3

<sup>1</sup> The restrictions and prohibitions on the use of specific substances, preparations and articles, together with exemptions, are regulated in the Annexes.

<sup>2</sup> Exemptions under the Annexes are only granted to persons who are domiciled or have a registered office in Switzerland.

### Section 1a<sup>15</sup> Special Labelling

#### Art. 3a

<sup>1</sup> Special labelling must be clearly legible and indelible. It must be in at least one official language of the place where the substance, preparation, appliance or article is supplied to users or the where the system is installed.

<sup>2</sup> The following may be labelled in different official language or in English with the agreement of the individual professional users:

- a. a substance or preparation for supply to professional users;
- b. appliances and systems for professional users.

<sup>3</sup> The official languages are German, French and Italian.

### Section 2 Authorisations

#### Art. 4<sup>16</sup> Applications requiring authorisation

The following applications require an authorisation granted by the authorities mentioned below:

Application	Authority granting authorisation
a. application, on a professional or commercial basis, of products intended to protect plants against rodents (rodenticides), if applied on more than one farm or by machine	cantonal authority; with the agreement of the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO), the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) and the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) in the case of regional or supraregional applications

<sup>15</sup> Inserted by Annex No 2 of the O of 11 March 2022, in force since 1 May 2022 (AS 2022 220).

<sup>16</sup> Amended by No I 6 of the O of 4 Sept. 2013 (Reorganisation in the field of Food Safety and Veterinary Medicine), in force since 1 Jan. 2014 (AS 2013 3041).

Application	Authority granting authorisation
b. <sup>17</sup> aerial spraying and spreading of plant protection products, biocidal products and fertilisers	Federal Office of Civil Aviation, with the agreement of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the FSVO, the FOAG, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the FOEN
c. application of plant protection products and fertilisers in forests, unless covered by an authorisation under letter a or b	cantonal authority

**Art. 4a**<sup>18</sup> Applications that do not require authorisation

The granting of authorisation in accordance with Article 4 letter b is not required for the application of organisms using an unmanned aircraft.

**Art. 5** Requirements for authorisation

<sup>1</sup> Authorisation shall be granted in accordance with Article 4 letter a or c if the planned application is not expected to endanger the environment. This authorisation is for a limited period and for a specific geographical area.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>1bis</sup> Authorisation granted in accordance with Article 4 letter b shall be limited in time and geographical scope and only granted if, in the case of the planned application:

- a. application from the ground is not feasible or application from the air is associated with advantages for the protection of human health or the environment;
- b. the aviation company uses aircraft and equipment with state-of-the-art technology for the protection of human health and the environment; and
- c. there is no reason to fear any risk to human health and the environment.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Authorisations shall only be granted to persons who are domiciled or have a registered office in Switzerland or in a member state of the European Union (EU) or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

**Art. 6**<sup>21</sup> Coordination

If a federal authority is responsible for the authorisation, it shall consult the relevant cantonal authority before making a decision, in particular in relation to whether the cantonal authority takes the view that the conditions for authorisation have been fulfilled and regarding the ancillary requirements to be stipulated in any authorisation.

<sup>17</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 1 July 2015, in force since 1 Sept. 2015 (AS 2015 2367).

<sup>18</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 1 July 2015, in force since 1 Sept. 2015 (AS 2015 2367).

<sup>19</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 1 July 2015, in force since 1 Sept. 2015 (AS 2015 2367).

<sup>20</sup> Inserted by No I of the O of 1 July 2015, in force since 1 Sept. 2015 (AS 2015 2367).

<sup>21</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 1 July 2015, in force since 1 Sept. 2015 (AS 2015 2367).

tion that may be granted. The federal authority shall notify the cantonal authority of its decision.

### Section 3 Certificates

#### Art. 7 Use of substances and preparations requiring a certificate

<sup>1</sup> The following activities may only be carried out on a professional or commercial basis by natural persons with an appropriate certificate or with a qualification regarded as equivalent, or acting under the supervision of such persons:

- a. the use of:
  1. plant protection products,
  2. pesticides on behalf of third parties,
  3. disinfectants for use in public swimming pools,
  4. wood preservatives;
- b.<sup>22</sup> the handling of refrigerants during:
  1. the manufacture, installation, maintenance or disposal of refrigeration, air conditioning or heat recovery appliances or systems,
  2. the disposal of refrigerants.

<sup>2</sup> Pest control with fumigants may only be carried out by natural persons with an appropriate certificate or with a qualification regarded as equivalent.

<sup>3</sup> The competent Federal Department shall specify detailed requirements for certificates. It may provide for exemptions to authorisation requirements and specify a time limit for certificates for pest control with fumigants. In its regulations it shall take account of the protection goals.

#### Art. 8 Proof of specialist knowledge

<sup>1</sup> A certificate shall be issued to a person who, in an examination, has demonstrated the knowledge required for the activity concerned with regard to:

- a. fundamentals of ecology and toxicology;
- b. legislation on the protection of the environment, health and workers;
- c. measures for the protection of the environment and health;
- d. environmental impacts and the appropriate use and disposal of substances, preparations and articles;
- e. appliances and their appropriate handling.

<sup>2</sup> Certificates from member states of the EU and EFTA are regarded as equivalent to Swiss certificates.

<sup>22</sup> Amended by No I of the O of 7 Nov. 2012, in force since 1 Dec. 2012 (AS 2012 6161).