

Suffix change from „EG“ to „EU“ (Identification mark and health mark)

1. The legal framework

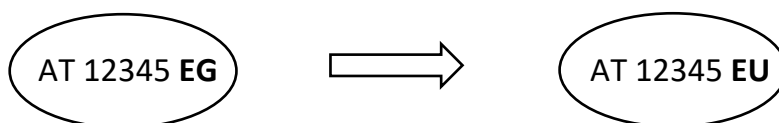
Food business operators must ensure that products of animal origin are marked with an identification mark. The identification mark may (depending on the presentation of different products of animal origin) be applied directly to the product itself, on its packaging or wrapping, or may be printed on a label affixed to the product itself, its wrapping or packaging. The identification mark must be applied before the product leaves the establishment of production.

The identification mark must indicate the abbreviation of the Member State in which the establishment is located (code for Austria according to ISO standard: AT). Furthermore, the identification mark must indicate the five-digit (approval-) number of the food business operator.¹

Since the entry into force of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1141² in January 2024, the identification mark must also include (instead of the previous abbreviation “EG” for “Europäische Gemeinschaft”) the **abbreviation of the “Europäische Union”** in one of the official EU languages (for Austria: **EU**).

Accordingly, the German abbreviations included in the identification mark and/or in the establishment’s approval number, were replaced from the German abbreviation “Europäische Gemeinschaft” (EG) (or European Community in EN>EC) to the German abbreviation “EU” with reference to the “Europäische Union” (European Union).

The other two parts of the identification mark and/or the establishment’s approval number (ISO country code + five-digit establishment number) remain completely unaffected by the suffix change:



¹ pursuant to Annex II, Section 1 of [Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004](#)

² pursuant to Annex, paragraph 1, point (a) of [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1141](#)

If meat is officially found fit for human consumption, the **health mark** is applied by the official veterinarian only to domestic ungulates and farmed game mammals other than lagomorphs, having undergone ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, and large wild game having undergone post mortem inspection. The health mark is applied on the external surface of the carcass.³

The health mark must include the abbreviation of the Member State in which the establishment is located (code for Austria according to ISO standard: **AT**). Furthermore, the health mark includes the **five-digit (approval) number** of the slaughterhouse or game-handling establishment and the **identification number of the official veterinarian**.⁴

With **Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1447**⁵, the **health mark was adapted to the suffix change within the identification mark**. In consequence, the health mark must now also include (instead of the previous abbreviation “EG” for “Europäische Gemeinschaft”) the **abbreviation of the “Europäische Union”** in one of the official EU languages (for Austria: **EU**).

Pursuant to Art. 2 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1141 as well as Art. 2 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1447, both the identification mark and the health mark may continue to contain the abbreviation “EG” **until 31 December 2028** in the course of a **transitional period**. Consequently, products of animal origin on which the identification or health mark is applied with the abbreviation “EG” before this date (31 December 2028), may continue to be placed on the market.

The suffix change (“EG” → “EU”) constitutes a purely administrative amendment regarding food labelling in accordance with the intracommunity law. The suffix change does not result in a change of the establishment approval activities nor in change of the products placed on the market by them!

³ pursuant to Art. 48 of [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/627](#)

⁴ pursuant to Annex II of [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/627](#)

⁵ pursuant to Art. 1 point 19 and Art. 2 of [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/1447](#)

For this reason, it is pointed out that the suffix change (“EG” → “EU”) does NOT RESULT IN ANY CHANGE with regard to

- the establishment’s owner or legal entity;
- the production site or the establishment address;
- the approved production activities or the products nor product categories placed on the market.

2. National implementation of the suffix change

The above-described change of the **establishment’s approval number (food business operators handling with food of animal origin)** was implemented in the national VIS system on 1 November 2025. As of 1 November 2025, the lists of Austrian approved establishments (for food of animal origin) were accordingly published in amended form taking into account the suffix change from “EG” to “EU”. ⁶

With regard to consignments exported to third countries, all third-country authorities were proactively informed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection (BMASGPK) on the suffix change in August 2025 via the Austrian Foreign Trade Centres of the Austrian Economic Chamber (WKO). Furthermore, a corresponding factsheet was submitted by the European Commission to several third-country authorities.

The BMASGPK notifies the respective third-country authorities separately and step-by-step the amended lists of Austrian export establishments (list of establishments that are approved for the export of products of animal origin to a specific third country and therefor require an according export authorization).

If a separate listing of establishments is not required for the export of food of animal origin (e.g. export of dairy products to Japan), the implementation of the suffix change is carried out automatically.

Until the end of the transitional period (31 December 2028), food business operators are advised to apply a uniform and coordinated procedure within the establishment in the context of third country exports.

⁶ refer to the link for [Approved Establishments - VIS Website](#)

Subsequently, the **simultaneous use of marks with different suffixes** (on the packaging material, labelling of products within one export consignment, information provided in the export certificate, packaged meat cuts with visible health mark) **should be avoided**. Import delays due to misunderstandings or confusion at the border control posts of third countries could thereby be avoided.

KEY MESSAGES

- the suffix change (“EG” → “EU”) concerns the **identification mark** of food of animal origin and the **health mark** of meat
- purely an administrative adaptation to EU law
- no change on the approved production activities nor on the products placed on the market
- suffix change only concerns food establishments (and, for example, not establishments handling with animal by-products)
- the transitional period until 31 December 2028 allows the use of the previous suffix “EG” further on
- food products bearing marks with different suffixes (“EG” vs. “EU”) will be on the market simultaneously
- after the transitional period (from 1 January 2029), the application of identification marks and health marks will only be permitted using the suffix “EU”
- products produced and delivered before that date may continue to be placed on the market
- the changed lists of Austrian export establishments will be notified step-by-step to the competent third-country authorities
- recommendation for a uniform and coordinated procedure within the establishments in the context of third country exports
- no simultaneous use of marks with different suffixes within an export consignment