

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO  
257

Second edition  
1988-11-15



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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ

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## **Pesticides and other agrochemicals — Principles for the selection of common names**

*Produits phytosanitaires et assimilés — Principes pour le choix de noms communs*

**(standards.iteh.ai)**

ISO 257:1988

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/b5669c54-2349-42a4-a8b7-b4c4eaace728/iso-257-1988>

Reference number  
ISO 257:1988 (E)

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 257 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 81, *Common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 257 : 1976), of which it constitutes a technical revision.

Annex A forms an integral part of this International Standard.

# Pesticides and other agrochemicals — Principles for the selection of common names

## 1 Scope

This International Standard lays down principles for coining common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals. These principles are defined for the guidance of proposers of such common names and for the operation of ISO Technical Committee 81.

NOTE — The procedure for the establishment of common names is given in annex A.

## 2 Definition

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definition applies.

**common name** : A name freely available for common use in identifying a chemical substance without recourse to its scientific name.

## 3 Purpose

**3.1** The purpose of a common name is to provide a short, distinctive, easily pronounced name for a substance, the full chemical name of which is too complex for convenient use in science, commerce and official regulations.

**3.2** Because a common name has to be freely available for use in describing the substance for which it has been coined, it should not be permitted to become a privately owned trade mark in respect of identical or similar goods.

**3.3** In order to achieve the desired goal of creating a common name that is generally acceptable internationally, rejection of any proposed common name by individual ISO member bodies [see A.2.1.3 and A.3.1.1 e)] should only be based on serious grounds and then only after every possible effort has been made to overcome the impediment to local acceptability.

## 4 Principles for selection

### 4.1 General

**4.1.1** No substance should be given a common name if its chemical name is reasonably short and distinctive (for example metaldehyde, carbon tetrachloride).

**4.1.2** The identity of a common name should be maintained in all languages, subject to necessary linguistic variations.

**4.1.3** Common names should be as short as is practicable, but should not include single letters and/or numerals except as structural qualifiers.

NOTE — While the formation of common names from initials and numerals is no longer acceptable, exceptions (for example **MCPA**, **2,4,5-T**) have been made for substances which are so well known by such names that to use other names would cause confusion.

**4.1.4** Common names should be distinctive in sound and spelling and should be neither difficult to pronounce nor liable to confusion with existing names (see 4.5.1).

**4.1.5** To facilitate international spelling and translation, "f" instead of "ph" should be used in common names; the suffix "-phenyl" in the names of esters should, however, retain its normal spelling.

### 4.2 Salts and esters

#### 4.2.1 Simple salts

The common name for a simple salt should be given to the parent acid or base. In the case of an acid, the complementary cation may be given as a hyphenated suffix and, in the case of a base, the complementary anion stated. A quaternary ammonium or phosphonium salt should be treated as a salt of a base, for example :

**alloxydim-sodium**

**imazalil nitrate**

**chlormequat chloride**

#### 4.2.2 Simple esters

The common name for a simple ester whose biological activity depends upon the parent acid or hydroxy compound should be given to that parent. The complementary esterifying radical may be indicated as follows :

**mecoprop-methyl**

**dinoseb acetate**

#### 4.2.3 Complex esters and salts

If neither moiety of an ester or salt is simple, the common name should be given to the whole molecule, for example :

**bupirimate**

**decafentin**

#### 4.3 Purity of chemicals

Although common names should be given to chemical entities of known structure, in exceptional cases they may be given to mixtures the composition of which is constant for all practical purposes and of which the concentrations of active components can be specified.

Such exceptional cases may include

- a) a reaction product mixture, provided that the concentrations of the main active components fall within acceptable limits about specified proportions;
- b) a polymeric reaction mixture, provided that the concentrations of the main active component polymers (the repeating units of which are specified) in the reaction mixture are known and are constant to within acceptable limits;
- c) an extract or derivative of a natural product (from animal, plant, fungal or bacterial sources) the composition of which is constant within acceptable limits.

#### 4.4 Isomers and isomeric mixtures

The following special considerations should be taken into account when coining names for mixtures of isomers.

**4.4.1** The common name for a substance that can exist in enantiomeric (optically isomeric) forms owing to a single asymmetric centre should be assigned, without affixes, either to the racemate or to one of the enantiomers, depending on the form for which the common name is first required. If a common name is required subsequently for another stereochemical variant, it should be the original common name with the appended suffix "-MP", "-M" or "-P", for the racemate, the (-)-isomer or the (+)-isomer, respectively.

If more than one chiral centre is present, it may be necessary to adopt special measures such as a system based on appropriate modification of the original common name.

**4.4.2** The common name of a substance which consists of complementary geometrical isomers should indicate the essential familial features (see 4.6). A specific isomer or subgroup of isomers of such a substance may be assigned a common name [which may include a syllable or letter(s) implying a *cis*-, *trans*-, (*E*)- or (*Z*)- form] only if the substance is produced commercially in a substantially pure form.

If a normal commercial product consists of a mixture of a single pair of isomers, the common name should apply to any mixture of the two. Individual isomers should be identified by suitable qualifiers, for example *cis* and *trans* or (*E*) and (*Z*).

NOTE — If it is commercially possible to produce mixtures with different ratios of isomers, the ratio should be stated on the commercial product, for example "60 : 40". The ratios will not form part of the common name.

**4.4.3** The common name for a substance which consists of a mixture of optical and geometric isomers, for example some of the synthetic pyrethroids, should be one that is appropriate to the mixture and should be modified by qualifiers, if required, to specify subgroups or individual isomers.

**4.4.4** If a substance consists of a mixture of structural isomers, only one of which has the stated biological activity, the common name should be assigned only to the active isomer. However, if the substance consists of a mixture of pesticidally active isomers, and if the isomerism consists of variations in chain branching or position of substituents, the common name should be assigned to the mixture, which should be defined as "an isomeric reaction mixture of A + B...". In ISO 1750<sup>1)</sup>, footnotes giving indications of the usual proportions are included. If necessary, names for individual isomers may be derived by modifying the common name applied to the mixture.

#### 4.5 Additional requirements

**4.5.1** A common name should not be liable to confusion with:

- a) established chemical names;
- b) common names already either officially authorized or in well-recognized use for other pharmaceutical, pesticidal or related substances;
- c) trade marks considered as possibly similar to and enjoying legal protection in respect of pharmaceutical, pesticidal or related substances, unless the prior consent in writing of the trade mark owner has been secured.

**4.5.2** In accordance with its definition and purpose (clauses 2 and 3), a common name cannot be a proprietary name in respect of goods broadly of the same category. However, in some cases, circumstances may exist during an interim period which make it desirable for proprietary rights to be maintained as, for example, where the proposer has agreed to surrender his proprietary rights subject to final acceptance of the name as an official common name. In such cases the proprietor should first agree in writing to discontinue the use of the name as a trade mark as soon as official recognition as a common name is given by ISO and thus :

- a) to permit the use of the name as the accepted common name by any party whatsoever who is properly using it;
- b) to surrender all proprietary rights as soon as the special circumstances justifying their retention have ceased to exist.

1) ISO 1750, *Pesticides and other agrochemicals — Common names*.

**4.5.3** A common name should not be included in a national standard until it is considered that conflicts with legally protected trade marks are unlikely and that the name is likely to be internationally acceptable.

**4.5.4** In the common name proposed for a substance which is closely related both chemically and in biological properties to an already-named compound, it is preferred but not required that the proposal should reflect the similarity by using a common root (which may or may not be a recommended syllable : see 4.6) in conjunction with syllables suggestive of the variation.

*Examples :*

<b>ethirimol</b>	<b>dimethirimol</b>
<b>chlorotoluron</b>	<b>chloreturon</b>
<b>carbofuran</b>	<b>decarbofuran</b>
<b>formetanate</b>	<b>formparanate</b>
<b>permethrin</b>	<b>cypermethrin</b>

#### 4.6 Recommended syllables

**4.6.1** A common name should, if appropriate, include a syllable indicative of the types of compound listed in table 1.

The recommended syllable should be used in the name at the position specified. Judicious use of other non-chemical rather than chemical syllables in a common name provides greater flexibility and reduces the possibility of conflict with existing names.

NOTE — It is emphasized that there is no intention of applying this recommendation retrospectively.

**4.6.2** The use of syllables with misleading chemical significance should be avoided. For example, a name ending in "-ol" or "-one" is not acceptable for a compound that is not an alcohol (or phenol) or a ketone respectively.

#### 5 Style of writing or printing common names

Common names should be treated as common nouns and should not, therefore, be capitalized except where required by national usage. Some common names which were coined before these principles were elaborated consist of initials and/or numerals. If such names consist only of initials, they should be written in capitals without intervening full-stops (for example, **MCPA**). If numerals and letters both occur, the numerals should be separated from one another by commas and from letters by a hyphen (for example, **2.4.5-T**).

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Table 1 — Recommended syllables<sup>1)</sup>

Type of compound	Recommended syllable	Position in name	Examples
2,6-dinitroanilines	<b>-alin</b>	Suffix	<b>trifluralin</b> <i>α,α,α</i> -trifluoro-2,6-dinitro- <i>N,N</i> -dipropyl- <i>p</i> -toluidine
1,3,5-triazines, chloro-substituted	<b>-azine</b>	Suffix	<b>atrazine</b> 6-chloro- <i>N</i> <sup>2</sup> -ethyl- <i>N</i> <sup>4</sup> -isopropyl-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine
carbamates	<b>carb-</b> or <b>-carb-</b> or <b>-carb</b>	Any position	<b>carbofuran</b> 2,3-dihydro-2,2-dimethylbenzofuran-7-yl methylcarbamate
antifungal compounds based on imidazole or 1,2,4-triazole and containing a chlorinated phenyl group	<b>-conazole</b>	Suffix	<b>penconazole</b> ( <i>RS</i> )-1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)pentyl]-1 <i>H</i> -1,2,4-triazole
coumarins	<b>coum-</b> or <b>-coum</b>	Prefix or suffix	<b>coumatetralyl</b> 4-hydroxy-3-(1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl) = coumarin
dinitrophenols and their esters	<b>din-</b>	Prefix	<b>dinoterb</b> 2- <i>tert</i> -butyl-4,6-dinitrophenol
phenoxypropionic acids of the fluazifop type	<b>-fop</b>	Suffix	<b>fluazifop</b> ( <i>RS</i> )-2-[4-(5-trifluoromethyl-2-pyridyloxy)phenoxy]propionic acid
organophosphorus compounds	<b>fos-</b> or <b>-fos-</b> or <b>-fos</b>	Any position	<b>quintofos</b> <i>O</i> -ethyl <i>O</i> -8-quinolyl phenylphosphonothioate
1,3,5-triazines, methoxy-substituted	<b>meton</b>	Suffix	<b>sebumeton</b> <i>N</i> <sup>2</sup> - <i>sec</i> -butyl- <i>N</i> <sup>4</sup> -ethyl-6-methoxy-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine
ethylenebis(dithiocarbamates)	<b>-(n)eb</b>	Suffix	<b>maneb</b> manganese ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate) (polymeric)
quaternary nitrogen compounds	<b>-quat</b>	Suffix	<b>paraquat</b> 1,1'-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium
cyclopropanecarboxylic acid esters (pyrethroids)	<b>-thrin</b>	Suffix	<b>permethrin</b> 3-phenoxybenzyl (1 <i>RS</i> ,3 <i>RS</i> ;1 <i>RS</i> ,3 <i>SR</i> )-3-(2,2-dichlorovinyl)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylate
1,3,5-triazines, methylthio-substituted	<b>-tryn<sup>2)</sup></b>	Suffix	<b>simetryn</b> <i>N</i> <sup>2</sup> , <i>N</i> <sup>4</sup> -diethyl-6-methylthio-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine
ureas	<b>-uron</b>	Suffix	<b>linuron</b> 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1-methoxy-1-methylurea

1) The recommendations are based on the chemical structures of the compounds.

2) In English, the ending -tryne was originally recommended, but was abandoned because the ending might be thought to indicate the presence of a C≡C grouping (see 4.6.2).

## Annex A (normative)

### Procedure for the establishment of common names for pesticides and other agrochemicals

#### A.0 Introductory note

This annex has been prepared for the information of the ISO member bodies and of sponsors and originators of common names.

#### Glossary of English [French] terms and definitions

**A.0.1 proposed common name [proposition de nom commun]** : Name submitted by the sponsor.

**A.0.2 draft proposal for a common name [avant-projet de nom commun]** : Name circulated for preliminary enquiry to ISO/TC 81.

**A.0.3 draft common name [projet de nom commun]** : Name circulated to ISO in a draft addendum to ISO 1750.

**A.0.4 accepted common name [nom commun accepté]** : Name that has successfully passed the ISO voting stage, but has not yet been published in ISO 1750 or one of its addenda.

**A.0.5 published common name [nom commun publié]** : Name that has been published in ISO 1750 or one of its addenda.

**A.0.6 national common name [nom commun national]** : Name that has been published in a national standard of a particular country (the country to be stated).

#### A.1 Stage 1 – Proposed common name

##### A.1.1 Submission

**A.1.1.1** Proposed common names are submitted to the ISO/TC 81 Secretariat, normally through the national standards body of the country concerned, for consideration with a view to adoption by ISO. Submissions by other routes, for example from the manufacturers direct to the Secretariat or by the distributors in a country other than that in which the substance is manufactured or originates, are permissible.

**A.1.1.2** Proposed common names submitted for letter ballot to the USA National Committee or conveyed to the Secretariat by any other national committee, are assumed to have been submitted to the Secretariat for consideration and adoption by ISO/TC 81 without a specific request to this effect being necessary, unless a definite statement is made by the sponsor that he does not wish the name to be considered by ISO.

NOTE — As a matter of principle, such statements can only be deprecated, because adoption of common names, which are used throughout the world, on a purely national level, without knowledge of their international acceptability, is certain to give rise to problems. The main such problem is the eventual use of different common names in different geographical contexts, which defeats the object of standardization.

##### A.1.2 Information required

###### A.1.2.1 Basic data

The following information is required to accompany a proposal for a new common name :

- a) the proposed common name, alternatives being allowed;
- b) the systematic chemical name for the compound to which the common name is to be applied, including :
  - 1) stereochemical identifiers, in the case of compounds that exist in different stereochemical forms, and, if appropriate, the proportions of the various isomers;
  - 2) in the case of compounds of uncertain composition, as much information on the chemical constitution as possible;
  - 3) the Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number, or Numbers if appropriate;

NOTE — Three systematic chemical names will be included in ISO 1750, namely those corresponding to :

- the English interpretation of the IUPAC rules,
- the French interpretation of the UICPA rules, and
- that used by Chemical Abstracts.

These three names are provided by the recognized authorities in the United Kingdom and France and by the Chemical Abstracts Service, respectively.

- c) the molecular formula;
- d) the structure of the compound or compounds to which the common name is to be applied, indicating the stereochemistry if appropriate [see A.1.2.1b)];

NOTE — The structures will, if necessary, be re-drawn to ensure self-consistency within ISO 1750.

- e) the name and address of the sponsor, together with any proprietary names, including trade marks, for the product;
- f) any other trivial names, code numbers or abbreviations for the compound;
- g) the use of the product;

NOTE — At present, the uses, for which abbreviations (in parentheses) have been established by ISO/TC 81, are

- acaricides (A)
- attractants (AT)
- bactericides (B)
- fungicides (F)
- herbicides (H)
- insecticides (I)
- insect growth regulators (IGR)
- molluscicides (M)
- nematicides (N)
- plant growth regulators (P)
- rodenticides (R)
- repellants (RE)
- safeners (S)
- avicides (V)
- synergists (Y)

h) a statement indicating whether the sponsor will himself arrange for a search for internationally registered trade marks or will request a search by WIPO (see A.1.2.2 and A.2.1.3).

#### A.1.2.2 Trade mark reports

It is a principle [see 4.5.1c)] that common names should not be liable to confusion with trade marks. To check this as far as is practicable, sponsors of common names are required by ISO/TC 81 to obtain, pay for and submit to the ISO/TC 81 Secretariat reports of trade mark searches in classes 1 and 5 of the registers of

- a) the World Intellectual Property Organization;
- b) the United States of America;
- c) the United Kingdom;
- d) the sponsor's country.

NOTE — It is permissible for the name that is being proposed as a common name to be registered as a trade mark in order to protect it until the common name has been adopted by ISO. All registered trade mark rights have, however, to be relinquished as soon as the common name has been so adopted.

These reports should be provided at as early a stage as possible, preferably with the submission of the proposed common name, but certainly before the closing date of the preliminary enquiry (see A.1.3.1). It should be noted, however, that if a proposed common name be unacceptable at any stage for any reason, and a replacement common name considered, it is usually necessary for further trade mark reports to be submitted.

The reports are not required for common name proposals formed by attaching suffixes to common names for which trade mark reports have previously been submitted.

#### A.1.3 Secretariat examination

**A.1.3.1** The Secretariat examines all proposed common names as soon as possible (usually within four weeks) after receipt. Unless there are strong reasons not to do so, the proposals proceed to the next stage (preliminary enquiry), after a careful check on the information supplied [see note under A.1.2.1b)] and re-drawing of the structure [see note under A.1.2.1d)]. The submitters are informed of the action taken.

**A.1.3.2** The Secretariat examination at this stage is on "absolute grounds", by which is meant compliance with the principles set out in ISO 257. The most common reasons for a proposed common name not being acceptable at this stage are

- a) misleading chemical significance, for example a name ending in the syllable "-ol" if the compound is not an alcohol or phenol;
- b) the compound concerned being an ester or salt, when the name should be coined for the free acid or base, if that is the active moiety (see 4.2);
- c) misleading similarity to an adopted common name;
- d) likelihood of confusion with an adopted common name, with relevant trade marks or with other non-proprietary names, notably WHO International Non-proprietary Names (for pharmaceuticals);
- e) presence of a syllable recommended for inclusion in classes of compounds of which that proposed is not a member, or absence of an appropriate recommended syllable (see table 1).

These reasons are not exhaustive and are not necessarily in order of importance. If the objections are strong enough, the reasons are given to the originator with a request for a replacement proposal. In certain cases, the Secretariat may make suitable suggestions.

### A.2 Stage 2 — Draft proposal for a common name

#### A.2.1 Preliminary enquiry (corresponding to ISO draft proposals)

**A.2.1.1** After having been satisfied that Stage 1 has been completed, the Secretariat circulates the proposed names for preliminary enquiry to the participating ("P") and observer ("O") members of ISO/TC 81 and to international organizations in liaison with ISO/TC 81, notably the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), allowing a four-month period for reply.

**A.2.1.2** Acceptance or objections should be lodged with the Secretariat within four months, that is before the closing date for the preliminary enquiry concerned.



**A.2.1.3** The object of this preliminary enquiry is to allow all the members of ISO/TC 81 (which are assumed to be those with an interest in the subject of pesticides, etc.) the opportunity to consider the acceptability of the proposed common name on "absolute grounds" (see A.1.3.2) and also to check for possibly conflicting nationally protected marks that present a barrier. If such marks exist, clearance from the trade mark owner for the use of the proposed common name needs to be obtained.

NOTE — A suitable form of words to obtain such clearance is given in A.6, for information.

If this clearance cannot be obtained, or the barrier otherwise overcome, the common name has to be identified in ISO 1750 as unacceptable in the country concerned, bearing in mind the principle embodied in 3.3.

If not already done at step A.1.2.2, the originator of the proposal arranges for a search to be carried out among the international registrations of trade marks effected under the Madrid Agreement (Marks)<sup>1)</sup> for internationally registered trade marks identical with or similar to the proposed common name and submits the results (in full) to the Secretariat, if possible by the closing date for the preliminary enquiry concerned. This search should be carried out in relation to classes 1 and 5 of the international classification established under the Nice Agreement<sup>2)</sup> and may be arranged either through the competent services of WIPO itself or through any suitable agency. All members of ISO/TC 81 are required to conduct a corresponding search for trade marks registered in their own countries.

The object of these searches is to avoid the possibility of dangerous confusion in sound or spelling with names of other products, especially those of foods or pharmaceutical products. In replies to the preliminary enquiry notifying such conflicts, delay is avoided if the names and addresses of the owners of trade marks with which confusion may arise are given, together with the types of product for which the trade marks have been registered. **Failure to meet the closing date for replies to preliminary enquiries, or to notify that the reply will be delayed until a stated date, will inevitably result in considerable delays at later stages.**

**A.2.1.4** In their replies to preliminary enquiries, France and the USA provide additional items of information, if not already supplied. These are

- a) France : the spelling, if different, and gender of the common name in French, and the French (UICPA) systematic chemical name;
- b) USA : the systematic chemical name preferred by the Chemical Abstracts Service.

## A.2.2 Secretariat examination

**A.2.2.1** The Secretariat examines the replies to the preliminary enquiries as soon as possible (usually within four weeks) after the closing date and either :

- a) approves the name for inclusion in a list for letter ballot by all ISO member bodies as a draft addendum to ISO 1750 (in this case, only one of any given alternatives is selected and, if necessary, any countries with conflicting nationally protected trade marks are noted); or
- b) decides that one or more comments make the name(s) unacceptable, in which case discussions are re-opened with the sponsors to obtain more acceptable replacements. These replacements are then submitted for second or subsequent preliminary enquiry, with an explanatory note in the remarks section of the data sheet, and so on, until an acceptable name is obtained.

**A.2.2.2** A summary of replies to preliminary enquiries, together with the proposed Secretariat action, is circulated to members of ISO/TC 81 as soon as possible after consideration. National standards bodies are expected to inform originators of successful proposals; in other cases, the direct negotiations mentioned in A.2.2.1b) take place.

**A.2.2.3** As specifically resolved by ISO/TC 81, acceptance of any proposed name on a national level should be withheld at least until the results of the preliminary enquiry are known.

**A.2.2.4** Names for compounds on which it seems unlikely that agreement can be reached by postal consultation are referred for discussion at a plenary meeting of ISO/TC 81.

## A.3 Stage 3 — Draft common name

### A.3.1 Draft addendum to ISO 1750

**A.3.1.1** The ISO/TC 81 Secretariat prepares a bilingual English and French version of a list of proposed names as soon as they have passed the draft proposal stage (A.2).

The list contains

- a) the proposed common names with English, French and Russian spellings, together with footnotes giving local spelling variations and countries where the ISO name is not acceptable, giving the reasons and, if known, the common names that are used in those countries;

NOTE — A distinction is made between a common name

- not being *acceptable*, for whatever reason, and
- not having been *adopted*.

1) The Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks (of 14 April 1891 as revised 14 December 1900, 2 June 1911, 6 November 1925, 2 June 1944, 15 June 1957 and 14 July 1967).

2) The Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (of 15 June 1957, as revised 14 July 1967).

Both of these Agreements are available from : World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), 34 chemin des Colombettes (Place des Nations), 1211 GENEVA 20, SWITZERLAND