

## **17 June 2020 – UPDATE**

### **Addition to Alert / Removal of Restrictions for Schengen Area / COVID-19**

Dear Customer,

As follow-up to our last [Status Update from 11 June 2020](#), which did not cover the current situation of EU/EFTA nationals, with this Status Update we focus on the situation for these individuals.

Swiss federal authorities have removed the Schengen states from the list of high-risk countries per Annex 1 of the [COVID-19 Ordinance 2 as of 15 June 2020](#). The rights of free movement have been entirely reinstated for EU/EFTA nationals, including their dependents (regardless of the nationality of the dependents). Thereby all restrictions imposed on EU/EFTA nationals and their dependents entering Switzerland from the Schengen Area have been lifted. The ports of entry have been reopened accordingly.

Consequently, EU/EFTA nationals from the Schengen Area planning to take up gainful activity in Switzerland, can now

- use the online notification procedure as before.
- apply for a residence and work permit in Switzerland as before, if they have a Swiss employment contract with a company located in Switzerland.

All non-Schengen countries remain designated as high-risk countries and subject to entry restrictions. Please see the following overview for further detail.

#### **1. Countries for which full rights of free movement apply as of 15 June 2020**

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Principality of Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

With regards to third-country nationals currently residing in the Schengen Area, please contact us directly as such cases must be assessed individually.

#### **2. Countries for which special rules apply**

United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Romania and Cyprus:

Although these six countries are not part of the Schengen Area and therefore remain on the list of high-risk countries, their citizens, and their dependents, the latter regardless of their nationality, also benefit from the full rights of free movement.

Restrictions however remain in place for third-country nationals wishing to enter Switzerland from these countries.

#### **3. Third countries**

For countries not belonging in the above categories, entry restrictions due to COVID-19 remain in place. Therefore, travel to Switzerland and work permit applications for third-country nationals wishing to enter Switzerland from a third country are only possible under certain circumstances, as outlined in our last [Status Update dated 11 June 2020](#) (i.e. urgent economic need, activities in the public interest, education sector, urgent service work on important infrastructure, etc.).

The federal government will decide on the relaxation of entry restrictions affecting third countries later and in consultation with the other Schengen countries.

#### **4. Exiting Switzerland / Travel abroad**

Most countries that had declared entry bans or closed their borders to foreign travelers have started to relax entry restrictions. Although many international rail services and airlines have resumed operations, the COVID-19 homepage of transit and destination country must be consulted before exiting Switzerland. Some countries have put in place quarantine measures that could disrupt travel plans in certain cases.

Should you have any questions about this Status Update, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Kind regards,  
Your Suter Howald Immigration Team

**Disclaimer: The content of this email does not represent legal advice and may not be used as such. For a personal consultation, please contact your Suter Howald Immigration Team.**

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**suter**howald  
Suter Howald Rechtsanwälte - Attorneys at Law  
[www.suterhowald.ch](http://www.suterhowald.ch)  
Stampfenbachstrasse 52 | P.O. Box | 8021 Zurich | Switzerland  
Tel. +41 44 630 48 11 | Fax +41 44 630 48 15

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