

8 July 2020 – UPDATE

Situation in Switzerland since 6 July 2020 for EU/EFTA and Third-Country Nationals

Dear Customer,

With reference to our latest Status updates, please find below a summary and update of the situation as of 6 July 2020.

1. EU/EFTA nationals

Free movement of persons rights have been entirely reinstated for EU/EFTA nationals and their dependents (regardless of the dependents' nationalities). Thereby, all Swiss entry restrictions imposed on EU/EFTA nationals and their dependents have been lifted. Swiss border crossings have been reopened accordingly.

Therefore, EU/EFTA nationals planning to take up gainful activity in Switzerland are again able to:

- use the online notification procedure, as before.
- apply for a residence and work permit in Switzerland based on a Swiss employment contract with a company located in Switzerland, as before.
- apply for a work permit in Switzerland based on an assignment.

2. Third-country nationals

As of 6 July 2020, the Federal Council has lifted the entry restrictions on third-country nationals for stays subject to authorization in Switzerland, with or without gainful activity.

Stays subject to authorization, with gainful activity:

New work permit applications can again be filed with the competent labor market authority, regardless of the business sector, so long that the Swiss National Act on Foreign Nationals and Integration (FNIA) requirements are met. In addition to these requirements, authorities will have to verify whether the planned work can commence (e.g. availability of travel options, expected status of the Swiss host company's operations, etc.).

Short stays not subject to authorization, without gainful activity and of a maximum duration of 90 days:

Entry to Switzerland for this type of stay (e.g. tourism, family visit, business travel) will in principle be refused to third-country nationals. If you require an exception, please contact us. From 20 July 2020 on, the admissions policy will change for this category of persons arriving from: Algeria, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Morocco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Rwanda, South Korea, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Ireland, Croatia, Romania, Cyprus and, in case of reciprocity, China.

3. Visa

Persons who had already collected their Swiss entry visa but were unable to travel due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, can request to have their entry visa re-issued under the following conditions:

- A new visa application must be submitted to the competent Swiss representation.
- It must be clearly shown that it is a replacement/substitute trip (i.e. with the same purpose and same duration).
- Currently valid travel health insurance coverage is in place.
- The applicant is not subject to any personal entry restrictions.
- This facilitation is only valid between 15 March and 30 September 2020.

4. Quarantine

As of 6 July 2020, a compulsory quarantine requirement for persons entering Switzerland from a country or region with an increased risk of infection.

Hence, any person who enters Switzerland and who has at any time within the last 14 days before entering Switzerland stayed in a state or region with an increased risk of COVID-19 infection, is obliged to go directly to his/her home (or other appropriate accommodation respectively) immediately upon entering Switzerland and to stay quarantined there without interruption for the 10 days following arrival.

Anyone who is required to be quarantined must notify the competent authority of his/her entry within 2 days and must subsequently follow this authority's instructions.

The Swiss Federal Council maintains a list of the countries and regions with an increased risk of infection. Currently on this "quarantine list" are: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Iraq, Israel, Qatar, Columbia, Kosovo, Kuwait, Moldova, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Serbia, South Africa, Turks and Caicos Islands and U.S.

The 29 countries on the "quarantine list" are reviewed and updated by the FOPH (Federal Office of Public Health) according to the development of the pandemic in a given country or region.

5. Exiting Switzerland / Traveling abroad

Most countries who have declared travel bans or closed their borders to foreign travelers have started to relax entry restrictions. Although many international rail services and airlines are resuming operations, the COVID-19 homepage of the transit / destination country must be consulted before exiting Switzerland. Some countries have already implemented quarantine measures targeting certain traveler profiles.

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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