



Annex CH-1, list 2: ID and visa provisions – particularities regardless of nationality (version of 05.09.2023)

2.1 Airline passengers in transit

2.1.1 Basic position

Airline passengers on authorised regular services **do not require an airport transit visa** provided they meet all the following requirements:

- a. they are in possession of a valid and recognised travel document, issued within the previous 10 years and valid at the time of the transit or the last authorized transit;
- b. they do not leave the transit area;
- c. they are in possession of the travel documents and visa required for entering the country of destination;
- d. they possess an airline ticket for the journey to their destination, having booked their connecting flight prior to their arrival at a Swiss airport;
- e. they are not persons for whom an alert has been issued in the SIS or the national databases for the purposes of refusing entry;
- f. they are not considered to be a threat to public policy, internal security, public health or the international relations of Switzerland.

2.1.2 Exceptions

Citizens of the following states require an airport transit visa:

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Bangladesh
- Nigeria
- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Pakistan
- Eritrea
- Somalia
- Ethiopia
- Sri Lanka
- Ghana
- Iran
- Syria
- Turkey
- Cuba

2.1.3 Special provisions

The following categories of persons are exempted from the requirement to hold an airport transit visa:

- 1) Holders of a valid diplomatic, service or special passport
- 2) Holders of a valid **visa** issued by any of the following states:
 - Schengen member state
 - Bulgaria*
 - Cyprus*
 - Ireland*
 - Romania*
 - Japan*
 - Canada*

- United States of America*
- Overseas countries and territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.*

* Please note:

The visa must be valid at the time the person leaves the country that issued the visa but can be expired by the time the person transits Switzerland. If, after the expiry of the visa, the aforementioned third country nationals do not travel back from one of the listed countries, but from any other third country, the airport visa exemption does not apply.

3) Holders of a valid **residence permit**, issued by one of the following states:

- Schengen member state
- Bulgaria
- Cyprus
- Ireland
- Romania
- Andorra*
- Canada *
- Japan*
- San Marino*
- United States of America*
- Overseas countries and territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

* Please note:

Provided the holder's unconditional readmission is guaranteed.

4) --

5) **Family members** of citizens of the EU/EFTA

6) **Flight crew members** who are nationals of a contracting party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 7 December 1944

2.2 Crewmembers of an airline company

Pilots of aircraft, other crewmembers and technical staff, holding a pilot's licence or an official and machine-readable crewmember licence (Crew Member Certificate, CMC) under Annex 9 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 7 December 1944, have the following authorisation while carrying out their official duties:

- a) to embark or disembark from their aircraft at a stopover or destination airport on the territory of a member state;
- b) to proceed to the territory of the commune to which the stopover or destination airport on the territory of a member state belongs;
- c) to travel by any means of transport to an airport on the territory of a member state with the purpose of embarking on an aircraft departing from that airport.

2.3 List of residence permits allowing entry into the Schengen area without a visa

Third-state citizens who hold a valid and recognised travel document are exempt from the visa obligation for stays not exceeding 90 days in any 180-day period (see [Annex EU-10](#)) to the to the Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement) if they also hold:

- a valid residence permit ([list of residence permits issued by Schengen states; Annex EU-2](#)) or
- a national visa of a Schengen state (D visa).

Third-state citizens who hold a valid and recognised travel document are exempt from the visa obligation for stays over 90 days (see [Annex EU-10](#)) to the to the Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement) if they also hold:

- a valid residence permit ([list of residence permits issued by Schengen states; Annex EU-2](#)) or
- a national visa of a Schengen state (D visa).

2.4 Refugees

As a general rule, the travel document for refugees issued in accordance with the London Agreement of 15 October 1946 or the Geneva Refugee Convention of 28 July 1951 allows entry into Switzerland (see [Annex EU-10](#)) to Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement).

2.4.1 Travel document for refugees issued by Switzerland

The travel document for recognised refugees (blue) issued under the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 (passport valid for 5 years) entitles the holder to enter Switzerland without a visa.

2.4.2 Travel document for refugees issued by an EU member state, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or the United Kingdom

For a maximum stay of 90 days in any 180-day period, holders of such a document do not require a visa provided they are resident in the state that issues the travel document. Proof of residence can normally be provided in the form of a residence permit.

2.4.3 Travel document for refugees issued by another state

Holders of such a document **require a visa** to enter Switzerland regardless of the nationality stated in the document.

2.5 Stateless persons

Generally, the travel document for stateless persons issued in accordance with the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 28 September 1954 allows entry into Switzerland (see [Annex EU-10](#)) to Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement).

2.5.1 Travel document for stateless persons issued by Switzerland

This travel document is issued as a passport for a foreign national (see 2.6). On the first page of the document, the following statement appears in French and English:

“Le titulaire de ce document est apatride au sens de la convention du 28.09.1954 sur le statut des apatrides. The holder of this document is stateless according to the convention of 28.09.1954 regarding the status of the stateless. »”

Holders of such a document do not require a visa to enter Switzerland.

2.5.2 Travel document for stateless persons issued by an EU member state, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein or the United Kingdom

For a maximum stay of 90 days in any 180-day period, holders of such a document do not require a visa provided they are resident in the state that issues the travel document. Proof of residence can normally be provided in the form of a residence permit.

2.5.3 Travel document for stateless persons issued by another state

Holders of such a document **require a visa** to enter Switzerland regardless of the nationality stated in the document.

2.6 Passport for a foreign national (alien's passport)

2.6.1 Passport for a foreign national (green) issued by Switzerland

- a) Persons recognised as being stateless under the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 28 September 1954 who hold a valid B or C residence permit (see Section 2.5.1) (passport valid for 5 years)
- b) Sans-papiers who hold a valid B or C residence permit or a legitimisation card from the FDFA (passport valid for 5 years)
- c) Sans-papiers who have been temporarily admitted (F permit) or asylum seekers (N permit) (passport valid for 10 months).

These passports entitle the holder to enter Switzerland without a visa.

The alien's passport according to let. c) entitles the holder to re-enter Switzerland on one occasion (maximum journey time 30 days).

2.6.2 Passport for a foreign national issued by a Schengen state

In principle, Switzerland recognises aliens' passports issued by Schengen states (see [Annex EU-10](#)) to *Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement*).

For a maximum stay of 90 days in any 180-day period, holders of such a passport which contains a D visa or which is accompanied by a valid residence permit ([Annex EU-2](#)) to *Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement*) do not require a visa (see Section 2.3).

Note:

Aliens' passports issued by Estonia and Latvia are recognised by Switzerland (see [Annex EU-10](#)) to *Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement*). Holders of such passports do not require a visa (or an Estonian or Latvian residence permit) to enter Switzerland for a maximum stay of 90 days in any 180-day period.

2.6.3 Passport for a foreign national issued by another state

Switzerland recognises the aliens' passports that are listed in [Annex EU-10](#) to *Visa Handbook I and the SEM Supplement* (under the heading Switzerland).

In order to enter Switzerland, holders of such passports require a visa regardless of the nationality stated in the travel document.

2.7 ICRC Emergency Travel Document

The document is issued to persons who no longer have a national travel document. Accordingly, their nationality is not certain in all cases and the nationality listed in the Emergency Travel Document cannot be used as a basis for visa exemption. Therefore, regardless of their nationality, holders require a visa to enter Switzerland.

2.8 Laissez-Passer issued by Switzerland

This document is issued to foreign nationals who do not have any other travel document and who cannot acquire any other document. The laissez-passer is accepted for entry into Switzerland **with a visa**.

2.9 United Nations (UNO) Laissez-Passer

This document is accepted for entry into Switzerland **without a visa** for a maximum stay of 90 days in any 180-day period.

This laissez-passer is not considered a family passport. Family members whose names are listed in this document are required to travel on their own travel document and may also require a visa.

2.10 European Union (EU) Laissez-Passer

The laissez-passer for members and employees of EU institutions is accepted for entry into Switzerland **without a visa**.

2.11 Military identity cards

2.11.1 NATO military identity card

Unless the person concerned is carrying out an activity approved by the Federal Council, the personal military identity card issued by NATO to American and Canadian soldiers who are stationed in Europe is only accepted for transit if combined with a 'leave order'. In such cases, no visa is required.

NATO identity cards issued to family members of NATO soldiers or to the civilian component of NATO forces are not recognised by Switzerland as valid travel documents.

2.11.2 US military identity document

Unless the person concerned is carrying out an activity approved by the Federal Council, the only US military identity documents (Armed Forces of the United States) for soldiers that are accepted for transit are those that have a photograph of the holder in civilian dress or authorisation to wear the uniform. In such cases, no visa is required.

US identity documents (Armed Forces of the United States) issued to family members of US soldiers or to the civilian component of US forces are not recognised by Switzerland as valid travel documents.

2.12 Travel facilities for school pupils

Students from third states residing in a member state of the European Union (EU) or of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) may enter Switzerland provided they can produce a list containing their names and issued by the competent authority of the states mentioned.

This list is equivalent to:

- a visa, provided the student produces a recognised and valid travel document;
- a travel document and visa, unless the student already has a recognised and valid travel document. In this case, a photo of the student must be attached to the list.

2.13 Children without a travel document, travelling accompanied by a parent

Normally children either need to hold their own travel document or they need to be registered in the mother's or father's passport to enter Switzerland. However, they may enter Switzerland without a travel document if the following conditions are all fulfilled:

- The child is not older than six months;
- The child has been officially registered (e.g., in a register of births, marriages and deaths);
- The child is accompanied by one or both parents;
- One or both of the child's parents are citizens of an EU or EFTA member state;
- One or both of the child's parents identify themselves using their passports or ID cards and present an extract of the entry of their child's personal data in an official register (e.g. a register of births, marriages, and deaths).

2.14 Emergency Travel Document for EU nationals

An emergency travel document:

- a) is issued by a Member State of the European Union to its own citizens (see note below)
- b) is issued by a Member State of the European Union to citizens of another EU Member State,

- whose travel document has been lost, stolen or destroyed or is temporarily unavailable, and
- who are in the territory of a country where the person's Member State of origin has no accessible diplomatic or consular representation with the capacity to issue a travel document or, where that state is not otherwise represented.

The emergency travel document entitles its holder to a single return journey to their Member State of origin, to their country of usual residence or, exceptionally, to another destination.

Emergency travel documents issued by EU Member States to their own citizens have the same period of validity as indicated on the original travel document.

The document is accepted for entry into Switzerland **without a visa**.

Information on emergency travel documents issued to citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

An emergency travel document will also be issued to the following British citizens who are not nationals of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

- British Overseas Territories citizens (BOTC) who have no right of abode in the United Kingdom,
- British Overseas Citizens (BOC),
- British Subjects (BS) who have no right of abode in the United Kingdom,
- British Protected Persons (BPP),
- British Nationals (Overseas), (BN(O)s).

An emergency travel document is only recognised for persons in transit at a Swiss airport. Holders may not enter or leave Swiss territory.

2.15 International drivers

a) The international carriage of passengers or goods **in transit through Switzerland** is not deemed to be gainful employment in Switzerland for the purposes of this Directive.

For example: a Serbian driver carries tourists or goods from Serbia to Spain. He is not subject to the obligation to obtain a visa in order to travel through Switzerland (cf. Annex CH-1, list 1, Serbia, V13).

b) The international carriage to and/or from Switzerland:

- of passengers (traffic on bus routes (regular services), tourist transport services (occasional services), rail transport), and
- of goods by truck or rail,
- is deemed to be gainful employment in Switzerland.

For example: a Serbian bus/coach driver carries passengers to Switzerland. He is subject to the obligation to obtain a visa (cf. Annex CH-1, list 1, Serbia, V13).