



List 2: ID and visa provisions – particularities regardless of nationality

(version of 1 september 2016)

2.1 Airline passengers in transit (Art. 6 Ordinance on Entry and Visa Procedure)

a) Airline passengers on authorised regular services in principle do not require an airport transit visa providing they fulfill the following cumulative requirements:

- a. they are in possession of a valid and recognized travel document;
- 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;
- e. and they have booked their connecting flight prior to their arrival at a Swiss airport.

b) Exceptions: Visa required for the airport transit

Citizens of the following states are required to hold an airport visa:

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

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 one of the following states:
 - Schengen member state
 - Bulgaria*
 - Cyprus*
 - Croatia*
 - Great Britain*
 - Ireland*
 - Romania*
 - Japan*
 - Canada*
 - United States of America*

* Remark:

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 shall not apply.

- 3) a. Holders of a valid **residence permit**, issued by one of the following states:
- Schengen member state
 - Bulgaria
 - Cyprus
 - Croatia
 - Great Britain
 - Ireland
 - Romania
- b. Holders of a valid **residence permit according to annex V of the visa code**, issued by one of the following states:
- Andorra
 - Canada
 - Japan
 - San Marino
 - United States of America

[Annex 7 C Visahandbook I](#)

- 4) **Family members** of citizens of the EU
- 5) **Flight crew members** who are nationals of a contracting party to the convention on International Civil Aviation dated 7 December 1944

2.2 Crew members of an airline company

Holders of a pilot's licence or a Crew Member Licence or Certificate according to annex 9 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation dated 7 December 1944 have the following authorisation while carrying out their official duty:

- 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 resident permits allowing entry into the Schengen area without a visa

Third state citizens who are holders of the following documents are exempt from visa obligations for stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period:

- a valid resident permit as mentioned in annex 2 Visahandbook I (= annex 22 of the Schengen Handbook), and
- a valid and recognised travel document according to annex 1, list 1 or annex 1, list 2 (points 2.4 to 2.6).

Annex 2 Visahandbook I, see:

http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/dam/data/migration/rechtsgrundlagen/weisungen_und_kreisschreiben/weisungen_visa/vhbl/vhbl-anh02_aufenthaltstitel-e.pdf

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 Convention of 28 July 1951 allows entry into Switzerland (see [Annex 2](#)).

2.4.1 Travel document for refugees issued by an EU or EFTA member state

Holders of such a document **generally require a visa** to enter Switzerland.

However, **certain holders** of such a document **are exempt from this visa requirement**, provided that:

- o they will stay in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period;
- o they will not take up gainful employment during their stay in Switzerland;
- o they are resident in the EU or EFTA member state which issued the travel document for refugees.

2.4.2 Travel document for refugees issued by a third state

Holders of such a document **require a visa** to enter Switzerland.

2.5 Stateless persons

As a general rule, the travel document for stateless persons issued in accordance with the New York Agreement of 28 September 1954 allows entry into Switzerland (see [Annex 2](#)).

2.5.1 Travel document for stateless persons issued by an EU or EFTA member state

Holders of such a document **generally require a visa** to enter Switzerland.

However, **certain holders** of such a document **are exempt from this visa requirement**, provided that:

- o they will stay in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period;
- o they will not take up gainful employment during their stay in Switzerland;
- o they are resident in the EU or EFTA member state which issued the travel document for stateless persons.

2.5.2 Travel document for stateless persons issued by a third state

Holders of such a document **require a visa** to enter Switzerland.

2.6 Aliens' passport

2.6.1 Aliens' passport issued by a Schengen state

Holders of an aliens' passport (aliens' travel document, non-nationals' passport etc.) generally **require a visa** to enter Switzerland.

However, **certain holders** of such a document **are exempt from this visa requirement**, provided that:

- either
 - they will stay in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period;
 - they will not take up gainful employment during their stay in Switzerland;
 - they hold an aliens' passport officially recognised by Switzerland (see [Annex 2](#));
 - they hold an aliens' passport and are nationals of a state (see [Annex 1, List 1](#) of the State Secretariat for Migration directives), whose citizens do not require a visa for a stay in Switzerland of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period without gainful employment;

- or:
 - they will stay in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period;
 - they will not take up gainful employment during their stay in Switzerland;
 - they hold an aliens' passport officially recognised by Switzerland (see [Annex 2](#));
 - they hold an aliens' passport and are nationals of a state (see [Annex 1, List 1](#) of the State Secretariat for Migration directives), whose citizens normally require a visa for a stay in Switzerland of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period without gainful employment, but are in possession of a valid residence permit issued by a Schengen member state (see Section 2.3).

Note:

To enter Switzerland, holders of an aliens' passport issued by Estonia or Latvia require neither a visa for a stay of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period without gainful employment nor a residence permit issued by a Schengen state.

2.6.2 Aliens' passport issued by a third state, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania, or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Holders of an aliens' passport (aliens' travel document, non-nationals passport etc.) **generally require a visa** to enter Switzerland.

However, **certain holders** of such a document **are exempt from this visa requirement**, provided that:

- they will stay in Switzerland for a maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period;
- they will not take up gainful employment during their stay in Switzerland;
- they hold an aliens' passport officially recognised by Switzerland (see [Annex 2](#));
- they hold an aliens' passport and are nationals of a state (see [Annex 1, List 1](#) of the State Secretariat for Migration directives), whose citizens do not require a visa for a stay in Switzerland of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period without gainful employment;

- they hold an aliens' passport issued by a state (see [Annex 1, List 1](#) of the State Secretariat for Migration directives), whose citizens do not require a visa for a stay in Switzerland of no more than 90 days in any 180-day period without gainful employment.

Example:

A Brazilian national who holds an aliens' passport issued by the United States.

2.7 Passport for foreign nationals (issued by Switzerland)

This document is issued by Switzerland to persons officially recognised as being stateless and to undocumented foreign nationals with a settlement permit or annual residence permit. The document is accepted for entry into Switzerland **without a visa**.

2.8 Identity document (issued by Switzerland)

This document is issued to persons in need of protection, to temporarily admitted foreigners and to asylum seekers who are undocumented. The document is accepted for entry into Switzerland **with a visa**.

2.9 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**.

2.10 United Nations (UNO) Laissez-Passer

This document is accepted for entry into Switzerland: **without a visa** for stays of up to 3 months.

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, which may or may not be provided with a visa.

2.11 European Union (EU) Laissez-Passer

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

2.12 NATO ID card

The personal NATO ID card for American and Canadian soldiers stationed in Europe is accepted for entry into Switzerland in conjunction with a "Leave Order" **without a visa**.

2.13 Rhine sailors and their family members

These persons are not subject to the visa obligation.

Note: The travel document must contain a tri-lingual stamp or note either from Belgium, Germany France, the Netherlands or Switzerland. Any questions may be directed to the competent authorities (police and military department) of the Canton of Basel-Stadt (Polizei- und Militärdepartement des Kantons Basel-Stadt, Kontrollbüro, 4001 Basel).

2.14 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 has the force of a

- visa if students produce a recognized and valid travel document;
- travel document and visa if students have no recognized and valid travel document. In this case, a photo of the student must be attached to the list.

2.15 Children without travel document, travelling accompanied by a parent

In principle, a child either needs to hold his/her own travel document or he/she needs to be registered in the mother's or father's passport to enter Switzerland. However, he/she may enter Switzerland without a travel document if the following cumulative conditions are fulfilled:

- The infant is not older than six months;
- The infant has been officially registered (e.g., in a register of births, marriages and deaths);
- The infant is accompanied by one parent or both parents;
- One or both of the infant's parents are citizens of an EU or EEA member state;
- One or both of the infant'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).

2.16 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 holders 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 shall have the same period of validity as indicated on the original travel document.

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

Memorandum 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).

May only remain in transit at the airport, not enter or leave Swiss territory: **without a visa**.