

**Work and residence permits
for citizens of the EU-27/EFTA countries
(does not apply to citizens of the United Kingdom and the third-party countries)**

Introduction

Free movement for the citizens of the European Union (EU) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was gradually introduced through the implementation of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between the European Union (EU) and Switzerland and the changes made to the agreement for the creation of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) on 1 June 2002. From 1 June 2016 free movement will be granted to the citizens of the EU member states (Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus) and of the EFTA member states (Principality of Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland).

Other regulations apply to citizens of the United Kingdom and the third-party countries.

Gainful employment for up to three months

With the implementation of Phase II of the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons on 1 June 2004, gainfully employed citizens of EU/EFTA countries are no longer required to apply for a residence permit for a work stay of up to three months. Service providers and employees of EU/EFTA countries, who are sent on assignments, may work in Switzerland without applying for a permit for up to a total of 90 days within a calendar year. Instead of applying for a permit, in both cases the individual is obliged to register in advance – at least 8 days before employment begins – with the cantonal Labour Office. Employees who are third-party nationals may only be sent on assignment to Switzerland if they have a permanent residence permit in an EU/EFTA state for at least twelve months. In addition, they must apply for a visa for Switzerland. Employees who are sent on assignments must be granted working conditions and payment in compliance with the established customs in Switzerland.

Gainful employment for more than three months

The following types of permits are available for the employment of citizens of an EU/EFTA country lasting longer than three months:

a) Short-term residence permit (Permit L EG/EFTA, purple)

This permit is issued upon presentation of a contract of employment. This short-term residence permit is required for work stays of more than 90 days and up to a maximum of 364 days. It may be extended or renewed without leaving Switzerland. Geographical and professional mobility is ensured. The application must be submitted to the corresponding residential municipality in the Canton of Schwyz.

b) Residence permit (Permit B EG/EFTA, grey)

This permit is valid for five years and is issued when a one-year or indefinite contract of employment is presented. Geographical and professional mobility is ensured. The application for a residence permit for employment purposes must be submitted to the corresponding residential municipality in the Canton of Schwyz.

c) Cross-border commuter permit (Permit G EG/EFTA, brown)

This permit is issued for employed and self-employed cross-border commuters. The requirements for obtaining such a permit are a place of work in Switzerland, a place of residence in the EU/EFTA and a daily or weekly return to a foreign place of residence.

It is necessary to register any moves to new positions of employment. The permit for an employed cross-border commuter must be obtained via the employer. Self-employed cross-border commuters must apply for the permit to the municipal administration of the town in which the enterprise is domiciled. The weekly stay must be reported to the local resident's registration office at the residence municipality.

The validity period of this permit for an employed cross-border commuter corresponds to the duration of the contract of employment, if it is less than twelve months. If the contract of employment is valid for more than one-year or unlimited, then the permit will be issued for five years and can be extended. The stay of a self-employed cross-border commuter is otherwise subject to the same regulations as a self-employed person with a place of residence in Switzerland.

Self-employed occupation

In order to take up a self-employed occupation for citizens of the EU/EFTA member states, proof of self-employed activity must already be presented at the time of the application. The application for a work and residence permit for a self-employed occupation must be submitted with a business plan and other relevant documents to the corresponding residential municipality in the Canton of Schwyz.

Accompanying measures - customary geographical and industry-related hiring conditions

Accompanying measures are applied to avoid wage and social dumping. The Cantons have created commissions together with the social partners to examine the job market and take action if abuse is noticed. These commissions may demand the imposition of a minimum wage or may declare existing collective agreements binding.

Family-reunion immigration

EU/EFTA citizens with a residence permit are entitled to family-reunion immigration, provided they are able to offer their family adequate housing. The spouse and children of EU/EFTA nationals, who are issued with a residence permit within the framework of family-reunion immigration, are allowed to work irrespective of their citizenship.

Entry

Citizens of an EU/EFTA country and their families must carry a valid identity card or passport when entering Switzerland. If entry is for purposes of taking up residence in Switzerland, they must register within fourteen days with municipal authority of their place of residence.

Additional information

Additional information is available on the Internet under www.sz.ch/migration or on the website of the State Secretariat for Migration www.sem.admin.ch. Application forms are available from the Office for Migration.

Contact address

Department for Economic Affairs
Labour Office

Lückenstrasse 8
P.O. Box 1181
CH-6431 Schwyz

Tel. +41 41 819 16 26
Fax +41 41 819 16 29
afa@sz.ch
www.sz.ch/arbeit

Department for Economic Affairs
Office for Migration

Steistegstrasse 13
P.O. Box 454
CH-6431 Schwyz

Tel. +41 41 819 22 07
Fax +41 41 819 22 79
afm@sz.ch
www.sz.ch/migration