



Regulated Professional Activities in Switzerland

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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
**State Secretariat for Education,
Research and Innovation SERI**

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Introduction

This list provides an overview of the professional activities that are regulated in Switzerland and therefore generally require recognition of foreign professional qualifications. A professional activity is considered regulated in Switzerland if specific professional qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certification) are required by legislation in order to carry them out. Many professional activities (e.g. health care) are regulated on the basis of cantonal legislation. However, there are also some professional activities that are regulated by federal legislation (e.g. electrical installation).

This list serves as a point of reference and is regularly updated as soon as the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) is notified of any changes. However, all information is published without any guarantee of accuracy or completeness.

The various colours used in the texts have different meanings:

- Professional activities appearing in **blue** are subject to either
 - a procedure for the recognition of foreign qualifications if the activity is domiciled in Switzerland or
 - a procedure to notify the authorities in advance in the case of EU and EFTA-based service providers wishing to work in Switzerland for no more than 90 working days per calendar year
- Professional activities appearing in **bold** font may only be carried out in Switzerland if the activity in question is domiciled in Switzerland or if the person is hired by an employer in Switzerland.
- Professional activities appearing in **red** font are not eligible for the recognition of foreign qualifications, either because they are excluded from the scope of the AFMP or are subject to special legislation.

Abbreviations

AFMP	<u>Agreement of 21 June 1999 between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the free movement of persons (SR 0.142.112.681)</u>
EDK	Swiss Conference of Cantonal Directors of Education
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ENSI	Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate
ESTI	Federal Inspectorate for Heavy Current Installations
EU	European Union
FCSO	Federal Civil Status Office
fedpol	Federal Office of Police, Central Weapons Registry
FOCA	Federal Office of Civil Aviation
FOEN	Federal Office for the Environment
FOPH	Federal Office of Public Health
FOSPO	Federal Office of Sport
FOT	Federal Office of Transport
FSVO	Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office
MEBEKO	Commission for Medical Professions
METAS	Federal Institute of Metrology
PsyCo	Psychology Professions Committee

Regulated Professional Activities in Switzerland

SERI	State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
SRC	Swiss Red Cross
Suva	Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund

1. Healthcare

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Art therapist - Music therapy - Plastic and visual art meditation therapy - Intermedial therapy - Drama and speech therapy	SERI	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Beautician	SERI	Only TI
Biomedical analyst	SRC	See factsheet
Chiropractor	FOPH (MEBEKO)	Federal
Complementary and alternative medicine (therapist in)	Competent cantonal authority	See factsheet
Complementary therapist - Shiatsu - Ayurveda - Eutony - Yoga - Movement therapy and dance	SERI	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Dental assistant	SERI	Only GE , but federal for radiological activities
Dental hygienist	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Dentist	FOPH (MEBEKO)	Federal

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Dental prosthodontist	SERI (recognition is only possible for the title of dental technician)	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Dental technician	SERI	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Drug store (operator)	SERI	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Druggist	SERI	Cantonal (harmonised)
Emergency medical technician	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Healthcare assistant	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Hearing aid acoustician	SERI	Federal
Laboratory (Head)	FOPH	See factsheet
Laser (use for cosmetic purposes)	FOPH	Federal
Maternal, paternal and breastfeeding counsellor	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Medical doctor	FOPH (MEBEKO)	Federal
Medical massage therapist	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Medical office assistant	SERI	Federal (for radiological activities)
Medico-technical radiologist	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Midwife (maternity nurse)	SRC	Federal

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Naturopath specialised in: - Ayurveda medicine - Homeopathic medicine - Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) - Traditional European natural medicine (ENM)	SRC	See factsheet
Nurse	SRC	Federal
Nutritionist	SRC	Federal
Occupational therapist	SRC	Federal
Operating technician	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Optician (upper-secondary level education)	SERI	Cantonal (harmonised)
Optometrist	SRC	Federal
Orthopaedist - Bandagist	SERI	Federal
Orthoptist	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Osteopath	SRC	Federal
Paediatric acoustician	SERI / FOPH	Federal
Pharmaceuticals (manufacturer, retailer)	Swissmedic	See factsheet
Pharmacist	FOPH (MEBEKO)	Federal
Physiotherapist	SRC	Federal
Podologist	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Podology assistant	SRC	Cantonal (harmonised)
Psychologist	PsyKo	See factsheet
Psychomotor therapist	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Psychotherapist	PsyKo	See factsheet
Public veterinary services	FSVO	Federal
Speech therapist	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Veterinarian	FOPH (MEBEKO)	Federal
Veterinary office assistant	SERI	Federal (for radiological activities)
Xenotransplants (person in charge of technical matters)	FOPH	Federal

2. Trade and commerce

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Business, financial or real estate trustee	SERI	Only TI
Consumer Credit (Broker, Agent)	Cantonal authorities of the place where the main seat is located	Federal
Explosive substances (Dealer and user)	SERI	Federal
Funeral (manager)	SERI	Only TI
Handling of refrigerants	FOEN	Federal
Hospitality (manager)	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Narcotics (dealer and manufacturer)	FOPH	Federal
Precious metal inspector	METAS	Federal
Private detective	Competent cantonal authority	Only TG and SG
Security guards (employee or manager)	Competent cantonal authority / SERI	See factsheet
Weapon (manufacturer or retailer)	fedpol, Central Weapons Registry	Federal
Weightsetter	METAS	Federal

3. Nutrition

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Cantonal chemist	FSVO	Federal
Caterer	Competent cantonal authority	Only FR and VS
Food quality inspector	FSVO	Federal
Food safety inspector	FSVO	Federal

4. Forestry, fisheries and animal welfare

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Animals (activities relating to animal protection)	Competent cantonal authority / FSVO / SERI	See factsheet
Animal therapist	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Forestry workers	Competent cantonal authority	See factsheet
Insemination technicians	FSVO	Federal

5. Transport

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Aircraft maintenance staff	FOCA	See factsheet
Air traffic controller	FOCA	Federal
Driver transporting hazardous goods	Competent cantonal authority	Federal
Railway locomotive driver	FOT	Federal
Taxi or limousine driver	Competent cantonal authority	See factsheet
Technical manager of cableways	SERI	Federal
Trolleybus driver	FOT	Federal
Transport examiner for driver vehicle inspections	Competent cantonal authority	Federal

6. Education and social care

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Branch course instructor	SERI	Federal
Careers counsellor	SERI	Federal
Driving instructor	SERI	Federal
Educational counsellor	Competent cantonal authority	Only BE
Institution for children, adolescents and young adults (supervisor, educational staff)	SERI	Federal
Moderator of driver's training courses	Competent cantonal authority	Federal
Music teacher (degree in music pedagogy)	SERI	Only VD and LU / See factsheet
Psychomotor therapist	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Social work - Social Care Worker - Childhood educator - Social worker - Social educator - Sociocultural animator - Social worker in occupational environments	SERI	Cantonal (not harmonised)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Special needs teacher (specialised in early-age curative education)	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Special needs teacher (specialised in school-based curative education)	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Speech therapist	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Teacher - for pre-school and/or primary level - at lower secondary level - for upper-secondary baccalaureate schools	EDK	Cantonal (harmonised)
Teacher - for classroom instruction (at vocational schools - for preparatory courses for the federal vocational baccalaureate - for professional education	SERI	Federal
Workplace trainer	Competent cantonal authority	Federal

7. Sports activities

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Canyoning guide	FOSPO	Federal
Climbing instructor	SERI	Federal
Hang gliding instructor (hang glider, paragliders, including commercial tandem flights)	FOCA	Federal
Hiking guide	SERI	See factsheet
Hiking guide office manager	Competent cantonal authority	Only VS
Mountain guide	SERI	Federal
Mountaineering school manager	Competent cantonal authority	Only VS and VD
Rafting guide	FOSPO	Federal
Ski/snow sports school manager	Competent cantonal authority	Only VS and VD
Snowsports instructor	SERI	See factsheet
White water rafting guide	SERI	Federal

8. Construction

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Architect	SERI	Only FR , GE , LU , NE , TI , VS and VD / See fact-sheet
Chartered engineering surveyor	'Land surveyors' Examination Board'	See factsheet
Chimney sweeper	SERI	Cantonal (harmonised)
Civil engineer	SERI	Only FR , GE , LU , NE , TI , VS and VD / See fact-sheet
Construction site machinist	Competent cantonal authority	Only VD , GE , NE , VS / See factsheet
Contractor/Master builder	SERI	Only TI / See factsheet
Crane operator	Suva	See factsheet
Electrician (electrical inspector, installer or worker)	ESTI	See factsheet
Engineer in building technology	SERI	Only GE
Fire protection specialist or expert	SERI	See factsheet
Geological engineer	SERI	Only GE
Interior decorator	SERI	Only GE and NE
Landscape architect	SERI	Only GE and NE
Layout designer	Competent cantonal authority	Only LU

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Rural engineer	SERI	Only GE
Spatial planner	Competent cantonal authority	Only VD and NE
Thermal engineer	SERI	Only GE
Urban planner	Competent cantonal authority	Only LU

9. Law

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Civil registry clerk	EAZW	Federal
Debt collection and bankruptcy clerk	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Debt collection officer	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Land registrar (m/f)	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Municipal clerk	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Notary	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (harmonised)
Patent lawyer	Examination board	Federal
Pastor	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Representative in tax and social security matters before a higher court	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Solicitor	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)
Sworn translator	Competent cantonal authority	Only GE
Trade agent	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (not harmonised)

10. Other areas

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Civil protection instructors	Competent cantonal authority	Federal
Events involving Laser Radiation (operator of laser device: laser light show, holographic projection, astronomy presentation)	FOPH	Federal / See factsheet
Ionising radiation (persons handling ionising radiation)	ENSI/FOPH/Suva	Federal / See factsheet
Pension actuary / Occupational pension expert	SERI	Federal
Personnel working at nuclear facilities	ENSI	Federal
Plant protection products (professional and industrial use)	FOEN	Federal
Professional firefighter	SERI	Cantonal (not harmonised)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Occupational safety specialist	Suva	Federal / See factsheet

11. Employment

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Employment agency (HR consultant)	Competent cantonal authority	Federal

12. Regulated professional activities falling under the scope of EU directives other than the 2005/36/EC

The following professional activities are regulated in another bilateral agreement with the EU (recognition of qualifications in accordance with the provisions mentioned in these legislative texts).

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Air traffic control personnel	FOCA	Federal
Flight crew (pilot, etc)	FOCA	Federal
Lawyer (m/f)	Competent cantonal authority	Cantonal (harmonised)
Road transport (company)	FOT	Federal

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
manager)		
Trading in chemicals	FOPH	Federal

13. Regulated professional activities falling under the scope of other EU directives that do not apply to Switzerland

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Auditor (criteria established in Art. 727b SCO)	Federal Audit Oversight Authority	Federal
Insurance broker		Federal

14. Regulated professional activities associated with state authority (excluded from scope of AFMP)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Certain public cadastral surveying activities (head of the Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying, head of a cantonal cadastral surveying inspectorate)		See factsheet
Court bailiff		Cantonal (harmonised)
Game warden		Cantonal (harmonised)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Police officer		Cantonal (harmonised)

15. Professional activities excluded from the scope of the AFMP (Art. 22 Annex I)

Professional activity	Competent authority for recognition	Regulatory framework
Private employment agencies and personnel leasing (Manager)		Federal
