



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

(version of 25 May 2010)

### 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 continue their journey by air within 48 hours;
- d. they are in possession of the travel documents and visa required for entering the country of destination;
- e. they possess an airline ticket for the journey to their destination;
- f. 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
- Angola
- Bangladesh
- Cameroon
- Congo (dem. Republic)
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Guinea
- India
- Iran
- Iraq
- Lebanon
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- 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\*
  - Liechtenstein\*
  - Great Britain\*
  - Ireland\*
  - Romania\*
  - Cyprus\*
  - 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
  - Great Britain
  - Ireland
  - Liechtenstein
  - 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 V visa code](#)

- 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 3 months within a 6 months period:

- a valid resident permit as mentioned in list 3 (= 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).

List 3, see:

[http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt\\_einreise.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt_einreise.html)

## 2.4 Refugees

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:

**a) in principle with a visa;**

**b) without a visa if** the holder is not staying in Switzerland for more than three months and is not engaged in gainful employment and is in possession of a travel document issued by a Schengen member state, Great Britain, Ireland, Liechtenstein or Rumania<sup>1</sup> providing the holder is residing in that state.

## 2.5 Stateless persons

The travel document for stateless persons issued in accordance with the New York Agreement of 28 September 1954 allows entry into Switzerland:

**a) in principle with a visa;**

**b) without a visa if** the holder is not staying in Switzerland for more than three months and is not engaged in gainful employment and is in possession of a travel document issued by an Schengen member state providing the holder is residing in that state.

## 2.6 Alien's travel document

Travel document for foreign nationals (alien's travel document, alien's passport or non-nationals passport):

a) in principle is **not accepted for entry into Switzerland;**

b) **Exceptions:**

- Alien's travel documents issued by Schengen member states or Liechtenstein are accepted:
  - in conjunction with a valid residence permit as listed under 2.3, without a visa for stays of up

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<sup>1</sup> According to the European Agreement on the Abolition of visas for refugees dated 20 April 1959.

to 3 months.

- "Alien's passports" issued by Estonia and Latvia are accepted for entry into Switzerland without a residence permit, without a visa for stays of up to 3 months.

- The alien's travel document of the USA (known as "travel document" and containing the inscription "Permit to re-enter" on cover page 2) is accepted for entry into Switzerland with a visa.

## 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.

## 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**

School pupils from third countries resident in a Schengen member state, the UK or Ireland are exempt from visa obligations if a list of the pupils issued by the competent authorities of one of the above mentioned states can be presented in accordance to decision 94/795 of the EU Council dated 30 November 1994.

## **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 child is no older than 6 months;
- He/she is registered in the family register;
- He/she is accompanied by the mother or by the father;
- The parent who accompanies the child is a citizen of an EU or EFTA member state and carries his/her valid passport or identity card as well as the family register.