

Recognition in relation to conformity assessment

Mutual recognition

As the UK has left the EU, the agreement between Switzerland and the EU on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment (MRA Switzerland-EU)¹ has ceased to apply in bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and the UK. Since then, Switzerland has been able to conclude two MRAs with the United Kingdom covering eight sectors out of the sectors covered by the Switzerland-EU MRA. Further information on this and in particular the sectors covered can be found under this <u>MRA Switzerland - UK (admin.ch)</u>.

Exports from Switzerland to the UK have to comply with <u>UK regulations</u>. Exports from the UK to Switzerland must meet Swiss requirements.

If you have any questions about this topic, please contact:

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Unilateral measure by UK

In addition, the UK will continue to recognise current EU requirements and conformity assessment procedures, including the CE and reversed epsilon markings for 21 product regulations, which are listed on the <u>UK government website</u>. Therefore, when products in these sectors have been assessed by Swiss bodies recognised by the Swiss-EU MRA they will continue to be recognised in Great Britain.

¹ SR 0.946.526.81



Unilateral measure by Switzerland

In order to avoid, to the extent possible, disruption in import of goods from the UK, the Swiss authorities recognise proof of test reports and certificates of conformity issued by UK bodies. This measure applies to 9 industrial product sectors whose technical requirements between Switzerland and the EU are deemed equivalent according to Article 1 paragraph 2 of the MRA between Switzerland and the EU. For the sake of legal certainty, this measure was and is limited in time; however, it was reviewed and extended at irregular intervals. In order to increase the predictability of possible further extensions and the stability of the measure, Switzerland and the UK have agreed to set out the dates on which this measure will be reviewed and, if necessary, extended in the future.

The scope of this practice is limited exclusively to the import of products into Switzerland, which are not subject to an EU conformity assessment from the UK.

The Swiss authorities mentioned below will,

PROVIDED (1) the testing or conformity assessment procedures of the UK meet the Swiss requirements; (2) the UK bodies have qualifications equivalent to those required in Switzerland; and (3) the UK has taken certain measures in favour of Swiss operators,

RECOGNISE test reports or certificates of conformity drawn up by a UK conformity assessment body

- which was recognised under the Agreement on Mutual Recognition between Switzerland and the EU (MRA; SR 0.946.526.81) as of 31 December 2020,
- which operated at that date under the following legislations, recognised as equivalent to Swiss requirements in accordance with Article 1 paragraph 2 ARM, and
- was accredited at the time the test report or certificate of conformity was issued.

CONCLUDE that in the event of significant legal changes in these sectors in Switzerland or the UK, the measure in the affected sector is cancelled without preconditions,

REVIEW the measure on the dates listed below (so-called review date) to determine whether it can continue to be maintained, because at these dates legal changes in the EU may have an impact on Swiss and/or UK law:

REVIEW DATE	TRIGGER	SECTORS CONCERNED
31 March 2025	 EU Construction Pro- ducts Regulation (CPR) Regulation on Defor- estation-free products (EUDR) EU Regulation on pro- hibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market 	All sectors, in particular: lifts, simple pressure vessels and pressure equipment, toys
31 March 2026	 EU Artificial Intelligence Act 	Toys, products with AI com- ponents
	ACI	ponents



	- EU Safety of Toys Regu- lation	
31 March 2027	 EU Machinery Regula- tion EU Ecodesign for Sus- tainable Products Regu- lation 	All sectors, in particular ma- chinery

RESERVE the right to review the measure at other times if there are legal changes that affect the sectors covered by this measure or influence its implementation,

NOTIFY the cancellation of the measure and the sector(s) concerned three months before it ends.

Machines

According to Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (recast) (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 24), as last amended by Directive 2009/127/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 amending Directive 2006/42/EC with regard to machinery for pesticide application (OJ L 310, 25.11.2009, p. 29)

Competent authority in Switzerland: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Product Safety Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

Personal Protective Equipment

according to Regulation (EU) 2016/425 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on personal protective equipment and repealing Council Directive 89/686/EEC (OJ L 81, 31.3.2016, p. 51)

Competent authority in Switzerland: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Product Safety Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below



Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO

Toys

According to Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 on the safety of toys (OJ L 170, 30.6.2009, p. 1), as last amended by Commission Directive (EU) 2018/725 (OJ L 122, 17.5.2018, p. 29).

Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Office of Food Safety and Veterinary Affairs, Market Access Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

Gas appliances

According to Regulation (EU) 2016/426 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on appliances burning gaseous fuels and repealing Directive 2009/142/EC (OJ L 81, 31.3.2016, p. 99).

Competent authority in Switzerland: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Product Safety Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

Pressure Vessels and Pressure Equipment

According to Directive 2014/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the placing on the market of simple pressure vessels (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 45) and Directive 2014/68/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the placing on the market of pressure equipment (OJ L 189, 27.6.2014, p. 164)

Competent authority in Switzerland: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Product Safety Unit.

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

Equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres

According to Directive 2014/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States concerning equipment and protective systems intended for use in potentially explosive atmospheres (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 309)

Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Office of Energy, Electricity, Pipelines and Water Law Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below



Agricultural or forestry tractors

According to Regulation (EU) No 167/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 February 2013 on type-approval and market surveillance of agricultural and forestry vehicles (OJ L 60, 2.3.2013, p. 1)

Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Roads Office, Road Traffic Division

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

Lifts

According to Directive 2014/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to lifts and safety components for lifts (OJ L 96, 29.3.2014, p. 251)

Competent authority in Switzerland: State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Product Safety Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

Cableway installations

According to Regulation (EU) 2016/424 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on cableway installations and repealing Directive 2000/9/EC (OJ L 81, 31.3.2016, p. 1)

Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Office of Transport, Law Unit

Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies: please refer to the list below

List of Recognised British Conformity Assessment Bodies

The UK has extended its unilateral measure indefinitely in 21 product sectors, with the exception of agricultural and forestry tractors where the measure has also been extended but limited to 31 December 2027. The British requirements for placing goods on the UK market have not changed in the above mentioned 9 sectors since 1 January 2021, or have not changed in a way that differs from Swiss legislation. Switzerland is therefore also extending its measure until 31 March 2025, and extending annually thereafter in the absence of legal changes. Products placed on the Swiss market in accordance with this official practice may bear the UK marking ("UKCA") in accordance with UK legislation if they meet the British requirements.

The provisions in the MRA Switzerland-EU regarding the marketing of products from the EU to Switzerland remain unchanged.

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