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 [link](#).

Exports from Switzerland to the UK have to comply with [UK regulations](#). Exporting companies must also appoint a [UK responsible person](#). Exports from the UK to Switzerland must meet Swiss requirements.

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

EAER/SECO, Foreign Economic Affairs Directorate, Non-Tariff Measures

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Unilateral measure by UK

In addition, the UK temporarily recognises all EU-recognised conformity assessments, i.e. also when conformity has been assessed by Swiss bodies recognised by the Swiss-EU MRA. More information on the UK’s temporary measure can be found on the [UK government website](#).

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\(^1\) SR 0.946.526.81
Temporary 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 temporary 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.

The scope of the new official 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, and
- which operated at that date under the following legislations, recognised as equivalent to Swiss requirements in accordance with Article 1 paragraph 2 ARM.

Machines


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


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

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


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


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


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


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


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

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

Lifts


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


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 18 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 preliminarily extending its measure until 31 March 2024. Whether a further extension of the unilateral measure is possible depends on the legislative development in the UK. 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.

Should significant changes occur, in particular with regard to the legislation or the implementation of legislation covered by this recognition, SECO will modify the above practice in agreement with the authorities concerned. This is a measure in order to avoid a disruption of trade between Switzerland and the UK.

The provisions in the MRA Switzerland-EU regarding the marketing of products from the EU to Switzerland remain unchanged.
If you have any questions about this topic, please contact:

EAER/SECO, Foreign Economic Affairs Directorate, Non-Tariff Measures

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