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)\(^6\) has ceased to apply in bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and the UK. Under the trade agreement between the two countries, the product chapters in the MRA on motor vehicles, good laboratory practice (GLP) and good manufacturing practice (GMP) for medicines and certification of batches continue to apply. In these three product sectors international agreements form the basis for technical requirements by which the UK is bound, despite no longer being a member of the EU.

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 to the three product sectors in the Switzerland - UK trade agreement, 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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\(^6\) 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 13 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

Transportable pressure vessels


Recognised British conformity assessment bodies: please refer to document below
Radio and telecommunications terminal equipment


Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Office of Communications, Radio Monitoring and Installations 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

Electromagnetic compatibility


Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Office of Communications, Radio Monitoring and Installations Division

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

Construction machinery and equipment (noise emissions)


Competent authority in Switzerland: Federal Office for the Environment, Air Traffic Noise, Industrial Noise and Shooting Noise Unit

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


*Competent authority in Switzerland:* Swiss Federal Institute of Metrology METAS, Legal Metrology 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

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 Swiss sectoral provisions on mandatory markings are reserved.

The UK has extended its unilateral measure, which was originally set to expire on 31 December 2021, by one year. The British requirements for placing goods on the UK market have
not changed in the above mentioned 13 sectors since 1 January 2021. Switzerland is therefore also extending its measure by one year. The measure will no longer apply for 12 months, but for 24 months from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2022.

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 an emergency 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:

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