

Switzerland

Overview

Over 50% of Switzerland's GDP is dependent on foreign trade, and the country plays an active international role in helping to reduce or eliminate relevant hurdles, particularly non-tariff barriers (NTB), with the exception of agricultural products. As a member of CEN (European agency for standards), Switzerland adopts any new European standards in reconciliation with any conflicting national standards. Switzerland applies —Harmonized European Standards|| pertaining to health, safety and environmental criteria. All products covered by those standards must carry the CE label as a sign of compliance in all EU countries. However, Switzerland does not require the CE label on products for domestic (Swiss) use. Swiss manufacturers, if qualified, may use CE labels on their products.

All standards organizations in Switzerland are under the umbrella of SNV, the Schweizerische Normen Vereinigung or Swiss Standards Association. SNV provides local manufacturers with guidance on worldwide standards, serves as the link to relevant European (CEN) and international organizations (ISO), and is responsible for introducing the Swiss position at conferences and meetings.

Standards Organizations

Major organizations/agencies with programs to propose and/or implement standards:

1. **SNV** – Schweizerische Normen Vereinigung
Bürglistrasse 29, CH-8400 Winterthur, Switzerland
Phone +41 52 224 5454; Fax +41 52 224 5474; www.snv.ch

Association serving as the national umbrella for all Swiss organizations interested in standards. Provides guidance on new standards. Publishes new standards in its —SNV Bulletin|| (instead of a —National Gazette||

2. **Electrosuisse**, SEV Verband für Elektro- Energie- und Informationstechnik
Luppenstrasse 1, CH-8320 Fehraltorf, Switzerland
Phone +41 1 956 1111; Fax +41 1 956 1122; www.electrosuisse.ch
Sector covered: electrical safety standards, electromagnetic emissions

3. **SIA**, Schweiz. Ingenieur- & Architektenverein
Selnastrasse 16, CH-8001 Zürich, Switzerland
Phone +41 1 283 1515; Fax +41 1 20-1 6335; www.sia.ch
Sector covered: building standards (above and underground construction, cultural aspects, environmental criteria, insulation, air-cond/heating/safety)

4. **VSS**, Schweiz. Verband der Strassen- und Verkehrsfachleute
Sihlquai 255, CH-8005 Zürich, Switzerland
Phone +41 1 269 4020; Fax +41 1 252 3130; www.vss.ch
Sector covered: traffic safety, planning of public and private sector transportation networks, energy efficiency, signaling, safety in tunnels, financing

5. **SVGW**, Schweiz. Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches
Grütlistrasse 44, CH-8002 Zürich, Switzerland
Phone: +41 1 288 3333; Fax +41 1 202 1633; www.svgw.ch

Sector covered: quality standards of processes and equipment for drinking water and natural gas

6. **VSA**, Verband Schweiz. Abwasser- und Gewässerschutzfachleute
Europastrasse 3, P.O. Box, CH-8152 Glattbrugg, Switzerland
Phone +41 43 343 7070; Fax +41 1 241 61 29; www.vsa.ch
Sector covered: sewage treatment and water pollution control

7. **BAFU**, Bundesamt für Umwelt
Papiermühlestrasse 172, CH-3003 Bern-Ittigen, Switzerland
Phone: +41 31 322 9311; Fax +41 31 322 9981; www.bafu.admin.ch

8. **ASUT**, Swiss Telecommunication Association
Klösterlistutz 8, CH-3013 Bern, Switzerland
Phone +41 31 560 66 66; +41 31 560 66 67; www.asut.ch
Sector covered: Communications equipment

9. **BAKOM**, Swiss Federal Office for Communications
Zukunftstrasse 44, P.O. Box 332, CH-2501 Biel, Switzerland
Phone +41 32 327 5511; Fax +41 32 5555
Sector covered: telecommunications incl. radio and TV; www.bakom.admin.ch

10. **Swissmem**, ASM Verband Schweiz. Arbeitgeber der Maschinenindustrie
Kirchenweg 4, P.O. Box, CH-8032 Zürich, Switzerland
Phone +41 44 384 4111; Fax +41 44 384 4242; www.swissmem.ch
Sector covered: industrial machinery such as machine tools, textile machines, packaging machine, power generating and distribution equipment etc.

11. **Interpharma**, Verband forschender Pharmafirmen in der Schweiz
Petersgraben 35, P.O. Box CH-4003 Basel, Switzerland
Phone +41 61 264 3400; Fax: +41 61 264 3435; www.interpharma.ch
Sector covered: manufacturers of pharmaceuticals with own research departments

12. **SWISSMEDIC**, Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products
Hallerstrasse 7, CH-3000 Bern 9, Switzerland
Phone +41 31 322 0211; Fax +41 31 322 0212; www.swissmedic.ch
Sector covered: Swiss government agency comparable to the U.S. FDA

13. **SUVA**, Schweiz. Unfallversicherungsanstalt
Fluhmattstrasse 1, CH-6002 Luzern, Switzerland
Phone +41 41 419 5111; Fax +41 41 419 5828; www.suva.ch
Sector covered: occupational safety, agency comparable to U.S. OSHA

14. **BAG** – Swiss Public Health Agency (FOPH)
Schwarztorstrasse 96, CH-3003 Bern, Switzerland
Phone: +41 31 322 2111; Fax +41 31 323 3772; www.bag.admin.ch
Sector covered: public health

NIST Notify U.S. Service

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical

regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries. **Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL: <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

Conformity Assessment

Conformity assessment is controlled by a multitude of laboratories and companies that must be accredited by a Swiss Government Agency known as —SAS|| (Schweizerische Akkreditierungsstelle). This agency is comparable to the U.S. NIST and includes its own extensive testing laboratories. It is the sole authority that provides relevant laboratories and companies with the accreditation to certify products in specific areas according to ISO/EC 17000 and series EN 45000. The accreditation procedure is a complex process that includes the physical inspection of the laboratories and equipment, the staffing, and a determination of the organization's level of independence and possible conflicts of interest.

Swiss Federal Office for Metrology and Accreditation
Lindenweg 50, CH-3003 Bern-Wabern, Switzerland
Phone: +41 31 323 3511; Fax +41 31 323 3510; www.sas.ch

Product Certification [Return to top](#)

Product certification is covered by laboratories and companies licensed or accredited by SAS. All relevant laboratories and companies are listed by sector on the SAS website www.sas.ch (in English).

Underwriter Laboratories (UL) maintains its own Swiss office in Schwerzenbach as follows:
UL International (Schweiz) AG (Mr. Martin Fies, GM)
Ringstrasse 1, CH-8604 Schwerzenbach, Switzerland
Phone: +41 43 355 4020; Fax +41 43 355 4039; <http://www.ul-europe.com>

Accreditation

The accreditation of relevant laboratories is controlled exclusively by the Swiss Government Agency SAS (see above). www.sas.ch

Publication of Technical Regulations

SNV (see above) publishes all new norms in its —SNV Bulletin|| in a dedicated section called —SWITEC||. Nearly all new standards published in the SNV Bulletin are standards that have been processed and approved first by CEN.

Labeling and Marking [Return to top](#)

Generally, labeling and marking requirements follow EU regulations (CE labeling). However, Switzerland does not require the CE label on products intended solely for domestic (Swiss) use. <http://www.newapproach.org/>

Contacts

N/A

Trade Agreements

Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Iceland, and Norway are members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). EFTA members maintain their own external tariffs, although tariff duties on trade in industrial products among member countries have been eliminated. Although not a member of the European Union (EU), Switzerland has bilateral agreements with the EU that guarantee many of the same economic advantages and lowered barriers to trade that EU members enjoy. Preferential or duty-free rates apply to goods imported from the EU-EFTA free

trade area when an importer makes a request on the import declaration and produces a certificate of origin. The Swiss also accord tariff preferences under the GSP to developing countries.

The United States and Switzerland have strong bilateral ties. Switzerland is a key supporter of the United States on a number of political and economic issues, particularly matters within the World Trade Organization. Geneva is host to the WTO, several UN agencies, and other international bodies. In 2006, the United States and Switzerland formed the —Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum|| in order to address and achieve progress in trade topics of mutual interest.

Web Resources

[Swiss Customs Tariff](#)

[Swiss Federal Customs Administration](#)

[State Secretariat for Economic Affairs](#)

[Swiss Federal Office for Metrology](#)

[Underwriters Laboratories Europe](#)

[Schweizerische Normenvereinigung \(SNV\)](#)

[European Committee for Standardization \(CEN\)](#)

[International Organization for Standardization \(ISO\)](#)

[European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization \(CENELEC\)](#)