



ENTRY OR RETURN TO THE RESIDENCE COUNTRIES (SWITZERLAND) FOR SOUTH AFRICANS CITIZEN

Pretoria, 27.05.2020

This is to confirm that South African citizens who hold a valid travel document and a residence permission for Switzerland, a national visa [type D] issued by a Swiss representation or a legitimation card issued by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA, are in principle allowed to enter Switzerland at this time, unless a ban on entry and residence exists.

Currently, entry on Schengen-Visas [type C] is not permitted.

Due to COVID-19, Switzerland has temporarily imposed certain entry restrictions. Full details of immigration requirements, including special measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed via the website of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM [FAQ & Helpline Entry restrictions \(https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/aktuell/aktuell/faq-einreiseverweigerung.html\)](https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/en/home/aktuell/aktuell/faq-einreiseverweigerung.html)

The most important of these restrictions entail that travellers must have a valid reason for entering Switzerland, this primarily would be visiting or joining their partners or families, receiving medical treatment, attending educational and training institutions which require in-person attendance, or attending important family events.

Travellers must carry appropriate documentation with them to prove that they fulfil the criteria for entry.

The decision to permit foreign nationals to enter Switzerland or to refuse entry is made by the Border Police at the time of entry at the border, based on the residence title and documentation presented by the travellers. The Swiss Representation abroad does not have such authority.

Hence the Embassy is neither in a position to issue certificates confirming the individual admissibility of travellers for the entry into Switzerland nor can we perform pre-screens of any related documentation.

For the Ambassador of Switzerland

Dario Lanzillo
First Secretary/Consul

