



Treaty Series No. 1 (2024)

Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the Mutual Recognition of Driver Qualification Cards for Drivers of Large Vehicles Issued by the Relevant Authorities of the United Kingdom and the Swiss Confederation

Bern, 10 November and 20 December 2023

[The Exchange of Notes entered into force 20 December 2023]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
by Command of His Majesty
January 2024*



© Crown copyright 2024

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.uk/official-documents

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at Treaty Section, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH

ISBN 978-1-5286-4643-7
E03053683 01/24

Printed on paper containing 40% recycled fibre content minimum

Printed in the UK by HH Global on behalf of the Controller of His Majesty's Stationery Office

**EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND THE SWISS FEDERAL COUNCIL CONCERNING THE MUTUAL
RECOGNITION OF DRIVER QUALIFICATION CARDS FOR DRIVERS
OF LARGE VEHICLES ISSUED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION**

Note No. 1

*British Embassy Bern to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss
Confederation*

*Bern
10 November 2023*

NOTE: 036-2023

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and has the honour to refer to discussions which have taken place between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the United Kingdom") and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the mutual recognition of Driver Qualification Cards (DQC) for drivers of large vehicles issued by the relevant authorities of the United Kingdom and the Swiss Confederation ("Switzerland").

As a result of those discussions, the Embassy has the honour to propose on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom that the following arrangements shall apply:

1. DQC issued by Switzerland shall continue to be valid in the United Kingdom and vice versa.
2. The continued validity of Swiss DQC in the United Kingdom and vice versa shall apply to DQC whether obtained via an initial process or a periodic renewal, and to DQC issued by Switzerland or the United Kingdom regardless of the nationality of the person to whom they were issued.
3. Drivers who have obtained a DQC issued by Switzerland shall be able to benefit from it in the United Kingdom if they take up residence in the United Kingdom and are employed or used by an undertaking established in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom may require the exchange of their Swiss DQC for a UK DQC, which they shall receive without the need to take another test. Holders of a DQC issued by the United Kingdom who take up residence in Switzerland or who

are employed by a company domiciled in Switzerland are required to exchange their UK DQC for a Swiss DQC, which they shall receive without the need to take another test.

4. The United Kingdom shall continue to recognise periodic training for obtaining or maintaining DQC that people domiciled in the United Kingdom have completed in Switzerland, as long as the periodic training was attended in part or in full during the period of the person's employment with a company domiciled in Switzerland. Switzerland shall continue to recognise such periodic training that people domiciled in Switzerland have completed in the United Kingdom, as long as the periodic training was attended in part or in full during the period of the person's employment with a company domiciled in the United Kingdom.
5. These arrangements shall apply in accordance with any laws or regulations in force in the respective jurisdictions of the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

If the arrangements set out above in this proposal are acceptable to the Swiss Federal Council, the Embassy has the honour to suggest that this Note and the Swiss Note in reply shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments in this matter, which shall enter into force on the date of the Swiss Note in reply and may be terminated by either Government at any time upon written notice three months in advance.

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy avails of this opportunity to renew to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Note No. 2

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation to the British Embassy Bern

*Bern
20 December 2023*

413-01-02-04-1

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Embassy and has the honour to acknowledge receipt of the latter's Note No 036-2023 dated 10 November 2023 which reads as follows:

His Britannic Majesty's Embassy presents its compliments to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation and has the honour to refer to discussions which have taken place between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the United Kingdom") and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the mutual recognition of Driver Qualification Cards (DQC) for drivers of large vehicles issued by the relevant authorities of the United Kingdom and the Swiss Confederation ("Switzerland").

As a result of those discussions, the Embassy has the honour to propose on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom that the following arrangements shall apply:

1. QC issued by Switzerland shall continue to be valid in the United Kingdom and vice versa.
2. The continued validity of Swiss DQC in the United Kingdom and vice versa shall apply to DQC whether obtained via an initial process or a periodic renewal, and to DQC issued by Switzerland or the United Kingdom regardless of the nationality of the person to whom they were issued.
3. Drivers who have obtained a DQC issued by Switzerland shall be able to benefit from it in the United Kingdom if they take up residence in the United Kingdom and are employed or used by an undertaking established in the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom may require the exchange of their Swiss DQC for a UK DQC, which they shall receive without the need to take another test. Holders of a DQC issued by the United Kingdom who take up residence in Switzerland or who are employed by a company domiciled in Switzerland are required to exchange their UK DQC for a Swiss DQC, which they shall receive without the need to take another test.
4. The United Kingdom shall continue to recognise periodic training for obtaining or maintaining DQC that people domiciled in the United Kingdom have completed in Switzerland, as long as the periodic training was attended in part or in full during the period of the person's employment with a company domiciled in Switzerland. Switzerland shall continue to recognise such periodic training that people domiciled in Switzerland have completed in the United Kingdom, as long as the periodic training was attended in part or in full during the period of the person's employment with a company domiciled in the United Kingdom.
5. These arrangements shall apply in accordance with any laws or regulations in force in the respective jurisdictions of the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

If the arrangements set out above in this proposal are acceptable to the Swiss Federal Council, the Embassy has the honour to suggest that this Note and the Swiss Note in reply shall constitute an agreement between the two Governments in this matter, which shall enter into force on the date of the Swiss Note in reply and may be terminated by either Government at any time upon written notice three months in advance.

In reply, the Department has the honour to inform the Embassy that the foregoing proposal is acceptable and that the Embassy's Note and this note in reply shall constitute an agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Switzerland, which shall enter into force on the date of this note.

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to His Britannic Majesty's Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration

E03053683

978-1-5286-4643-7