



## Implementation of the national law on mountain guiding in Switzerland

### Leaflet for colleagues from foreign countries

The law is in force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. This means that mountain guide is a regulated profession in Switzerland, such as a doctor or a pharmacist.

Everyone who is working in Switzerland as a mountain guide, needs permission. In order to get this permit, he/she needs to prove that he/she owns a training which is recognized by the IFMGA and he/she has to have professional liability insurance with a coverage of at least 5 million Swiss Francs.

2014 is a transitional year. Therefore the permit only has to be applied for until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

If a foreign mountain guide wishes to live and work in Switzerland, an additional work permit is needed.

Due to the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and EU / EFTA the IFMGA mountain guides from these states are subject to different rules than IFMGA mountain guides from the other states, the so-called third states.

IFMGA mountain guides from EU/EFTA Member States are allowed to guide in Switzerland up to 10 days without notification. They may work between 11 and 90 days without work permit – they only have to make a notification.

From the first day IFMGA mountain guides from third states are only allowed to accompany as a tourist guide the clients that they have brought along, otherwise they need a work permit. In any case, the IFMGA recognition has to be proved.

Mountain guide aspirants from IFMGA national associations do not get any permit to guide in Switzerland, as long as there is no reciprocity for Swiss mountain guide aspirants. Unfortunately this is not the case in any of the countries. IFMGA mountain guides are however allowed in Switzerland to employ Swiss mountain guide aspirants under their direct or indirect responsibility.

<b>in Switzerland as a mountain guide</b>	<b>IFMGA card EU / EFTA</b>	<b>IFMGA card third countries</b>
<b>temporary, starting point and end of the tour abroad</b>	No notification, no permit, work permitted	No notification, no permit, work permitted
<b>up to 10 days</b>	No notification, no permit, work permitted	permit
<b>between 11 and 90 days per year</b>	Notification procedure with procedure of diploma recognition	permit
<b>over 90 days</b>	permit	permit

The permit is issued by the canton in which the mountain guide is mainly guiding. It costs CHF 100.- and is valid for 4 years all over Switzerland.

The notification procedure is free of cost, but it has to be made each time again.

The Swiss Mountain Guides Association recommends applying for the permit for mountain guiding in this first phase at the Canton of Bern. It is possible to download a leaflet and the application form from this homepage.

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Other links:

Swiss Mountain Guides Association

[www.4000plus.ch](http://www.4000plus.ch)

Federal Office for Sports

[www.baspo.admin.ch/internet/baspo/de/home/themen/risikoaktivitaeten.html](http://www.baspo.admin.ch/internet/baspo/de/home/themen/risikoaktivitaeten.html)