



Federation of European Accountants
Fédération des Experts comptables Européens

FEE Qualification and Market Access Working Party

Structure and Organisation of the Accountancy Profession

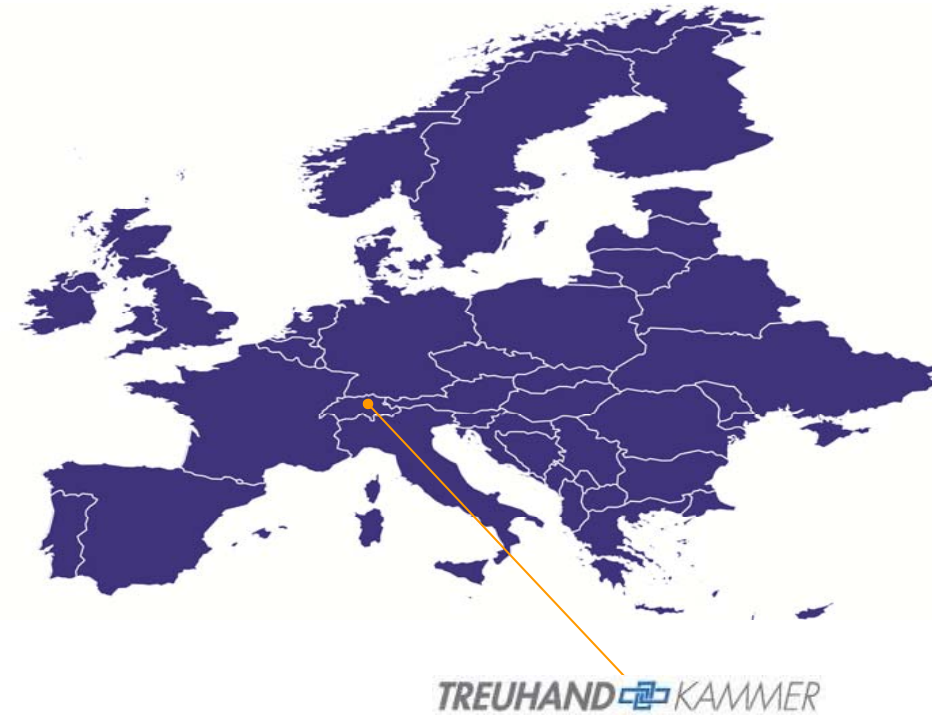
Key features

Switzerland

Status: February 2012

Contact person: Guenter Buechler, e-mail: info@treuhand-kammer.ch

Switzerland



Flag:



Population:

approx. 8,000,000

Capital:

Bern

Languages:

German, French, Italian,
Rhaeto-Romanic

In the EU since: No member

Professions	Licensed Audit Expert	Licensed Auditor
Protected title	Yes	Yes
Reserved activities	Statutory Audits	Statutory Limited Examinations
Included authorisations	n/a	n/a

	Licensed Audit Expert	Licensed Auditor
Regulated profession	Yes	Yes
Supervision	No (only audit firms of public companies)	No
Competent authority	Federal Audit Oversight Authority (FAOA) For auditors of financial service companies additionally Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA)	Federal Audit Oversight Authority (FAOA)

	Licensed Audit Expert	Licensed Auditor
No. of qualified professionals	+/- 5.100	+/- 2.000
No. of new trainees per year	+/- 400*	+/- 400*

* Number of trainees starting the education as Swiss certified accountant (educational diploma), which is the most direct way to become a licensed audit expert / auditor. However, the licensing as audit expert / auditor does not require the diploma as Swiss certified accountant. There are other ways to become a licensed audit expert / auditor (see next page).

	Licensed Audit Expert	Licensed Auditor
General initial education steps (without possible exemptions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One of the educations listed in Article 4, para 2 AOA* ➤ Between 3 and 12 years practical training (depending on diploma) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One of the educations listed in Article 4, para 2 AOA* ➤ 1 year practical training

* (e.g. certified accountant, tax expert, expert in accounting and controlling, university degree in business administration, economics or law etc.)

AOA = Federal Act on the Licensing and Oversight of Auditors

Market access

resident professionals

	Licensed Audit Expert	Licensed Auditor
Registration required	Yes	Yes
Competent authority for registration	FAOA	FAOA
Cost of appointment/ registration	CHF 800 (+/- EUR 650)	CHF 800 (+/- EUR 650)
Oath required	No	No
Insurance required	No (only audit firms of public companies)	No
Professional address required	No (only audit firms, including sole proprietorships)	No (only audit firms, including sole proprietorships)

Market access

professionals from other EU Member States

Temporary provision of non-audit services*

Pro-forma declaration	Yes
Requested data	Personal data, time period and place of work in Switzerland
Requested documents	None
Competent authority	Federal office for migration
Factual checks	None
Standard form	Yes (cf. www.bfm.admin.ch)
Compliance with host Member State rules	Yes

* Not relevant for statutory audit services

Market access

professionals from other EU Member States

Establishment of Statutory Auditors

Required procedure	Aptitude test plus registration
Infrastructure	Accountant must work in service of an audit organisation with an FAOA-license
Professional address	Required in Switzerland
Competent authority	FAOA

Aptitude test

Competent authority	FAOA; performed by Akademie der Treuhand-Kammer AG (subsidiary of Treuhand-Kammer)
Frequency	Twice a year
Form	Written Multiple Choice Test
Main Subjects	Contract law, company law, audit law, accounting law, tax law, social security law
Language	German, French, Italian or English
Repetition	Unlimited
Statistics- Number of applicants	+/- 200 (2007-2011)

Market access

professionals from other EU Member States

Establishment of other accountants not providing statutory audit

Compensation measure	None
Competent authority	n/a
Procedure	n/a

Market access professionals from Third Countries

Establishment of Statutory Auditors

Required procedure	Aptitude test plus registration
Infrastructure	Accountant must work in service of an audit organisation with an FAOA-license
Professional address	Required in Switzerland
Competent authority	FAOA

Aptitude test

Competent authority	FAOA; performed by Akademie der Treuhand-Kammer AG (subsidiary of Treuhand-Kammer)
Frequency	Twice a year
Form	Written Multiple Choice Test
Main Subjects	Contract law, company law, audit law, accounting law, tax law, social security law
Language	German, French, Italian or English
Repetition	Unlimited
Statistics- Number of applicants	+/- 25 (2007-2011)

Market access

professionals from Third Countries

Establishment of accountants not providing statutory audit

Compensation measure	None
Competent authority	n/a
Procedure	n/a

	Title
Professional bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Treuhand-Kammer (Swiss Institute of Certified Accountants and Tax Consultants) ➤ Treuhand Suisse* ➤ veb.ch*

* voluntary professional bodies mainly for small and medium practitioners in Switzerland

	Treuhand-Kammer
Membership	Voluntary
No. of members	+/- 5.600 individual members, ~ 950 corporate members
Institute staff	13
Date of establishment	1925
Local branches	13
Subject to public oversight	No
Oversight authority	n/a

Involvement in Qualification and Market Access

	Treuhand-Kammer
Initial education	Yes
Examination	Yes
Approval and registration	No
Continued Professional Development	Yes

Activities

	Treuhand-Kammer
Standard setting	Yes (standard setting for audits of public companies in coordination with FAOA)
Quality assurance	Yes (on site quality performance inspections performed by FAOA and limited to audit firms of public companies)
Disciplinary measures	Yes
Representation of interests	Yes