

COUNTRY BRIEF

Immigration Alert

December 10, 2008

SWITZERLAND: Becoming a Schengen State as of December 12, 2008

Effective December 12, 2008, Switzerland will become a participating Schengen state, as announced by Department of Foreign Affairs. The Schengen countries include: *Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.**

In order to obtain a Swiss Schengen visa, applicants will need to apply in person as well as book an appointment prior to their interview at their Swiss consulate.

With immediate effect, those who hold a current Resident Permit will be allowed into the Schengen countries for tourism or business travel. Only entry visas issued after December 12, 2008 will enable travel to the Schengen countries.

Citation: For further details, please visit the [Swiss Federal Office of Migration](#) website.

** Because the UK and Ireland have not ended border controls with Schengen member states, all Foreign Nationals residing in these countries will require a Schengen visa to enter Switzerland.*

The content herein is provided for informational purposes only.

Thank you for affording us the opportunity to assist you with this critical and complex piece of the immigration process.

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