



COVID-19 pandemic impact on recreational sailing under the Swiss flag – information from the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office (SMNO)

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on recreational sailing. Please note the following information as issued by the Swiss Maritime Navigation Office (SMNO):

1. Office operations and services

Personal appointments at the SMNO are only possible by prior arrangement.

2. Assistance while abroad

People abroad who have a connection to Switzerland and require help or information can contact the FDFA Helpline:

- Hotline: +41 800 24 7 365 and +41 58 465 33 33, or
- Fax: +41 58 462 78 66, or
- Email: helpline@eda.admin.ch, or
- Skype: helpline-eda.

The federal government also recommends installing the FDFA's Travel Admin App.

3. Instructions from local authorities

Instructions from the local authorities (Switzerland or abroad) must be followed. Recreational sailing is only permitted if and where this is allowed. All other instructions (e.g. shore leave bans, quarantine, curfews, etc.) must also be followed.

4. Obtaining/amending a Swiss Certificate for Maritime Navigation (collecting miles)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, between 15 February 2020 and 31 December 2021 the SMNO granted a general freeze on the four-year period to obtain the minimum required sailing experience (required practice for the initial issue or amendment of a Swiss Certificate for Maritime Navigation in accordance with articles 7 and 8 of the ordinance on high seas certificates). As a result, the aforementioned timeframe does not count as part of the four-year period – i.e. the respective deadline is extended accordingly.

5. For more information

- FDFA Helpline: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/fdfa/kontakt/helpline-eda.html>
- Cruising Club of Switzerland (de, fr): <https://www.cruisingclub.ch/de/home/news/coronakaribik>
- Swiss Yachting Association (de, fr): https://www.sya.ch/de_DE/
- International Maritime Organisation (IMO): <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>