

SWISS MEDTECH

# Welcome to MDR@noon

«Import of Medical Devices without MRA»

19 May 2021

# MDR@noon

«Import of Medical Devices without MRA»



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# MDR@noon Rules



Participants on mute



Camera off



Questions via chat



Session recorded



Host: Daniel Delfosse, Head of RA

Supported by Solothurn Economic Development Agency



Pdf and recording available on homepage: <https://www.swiss-medtech.ch/>

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a green lab coat, is smiling and looking to her right. She is holding a pair of surgical forceps. In the background, there is a surgical table covered with a green cloth, and another pair of surgical forceps is visible on the table. The scene is set in an operating room with warm lighting.

SWISS MEDTECH

# Status Medtech Switzerland: Quo vadis?

May 2021

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## Breaking News

# Bundesrat will die Versorgung mit sicheren Medizinprodukten gewährleisten

Bern, 19.05.2021 - Dank des Abkommens mit der Europäischen Union (EU) über die gegenseitige Anerkennung von Konformitätsbewertungen (MRA) nimmt die Schweiz am Binnenmarktes der EU für Medizinprodukte teil. Eine Aktualisierung dieses Abkommens ist aufgrund einer Totalrevision der Gesetzgebung in der Schweiz sowie in der EU per 26. Mai 2021 nötig. Diese Aktualisierung wird von der EU an Fortschritte beim institutionellen Abkommen geknüpft und konnte bisher nicht abgeschlossen werden. Ohne die Aktualisierung entstehen erhebliche Hemmnisse in den Lieferketten von Medizinprodukten zwischen der Schweiz und der EU, die Zusammenarbeit in der Marktüberwachung ist eingeschränkt und die Sicherstellung der Patientensicherheit geschwächt. Der Bundesrat hat deshalb an seiner Sitzung vom 19. Mai 2021 Massnahmen beschlossen, um sowohl die Versorgung der Schweiz mit sicheren Medizinprodukten als auch die Marktüberwachung künftig zu gewährleisten.

<https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/de/home/seco/nsb-news.msg-id-83581.html>

# Situation MRA - Swiss Medtech Industry

1. No update of the MRA without InstA
2. Without update of the MRA, Switzerland will become a third country for the EU from 26 May 2021.
3. As a third country, the privileged exchange of medical devices CH-EU will be lost.

## Glossary

**InstA:** Institutional Agreement EU-CH

**MRA:** Mutual Recognition Agreement EU-CH

**MDR:** Medical Device Regulation

**MedDO:** Swiss Medical Device Ordonnance

**AR:** Authorised Representative

**SMT:** Swiss Medtech

## Glossary

**MDR products:** MD with MDR certificate  
and all remaining class I devices

**MDD products:** MD with a MDD certificate (legacy devices)  
and upclassified devices (class I to Ia or Ia)

**TP:** Transition period

# Effect of Third Country Status (no MRA)

## Swiss Manufacturers

- **Export** of MD to EU only with EAR (EU Authorised Representative)
- **Set-up costs CHF 110 Mio., recurring costs CHF 75 Mio./year**
- **Loss of attractiveness** of Switzerland as location for the medtech industry (Start-ups, SME, Multi.nationals)
- Recommendation for action «As well as» by Swiss Medtech, April 2019

## Swiss Importers & Distributors

- **Import** of MD into CH only with Swiss AR (Swiss Authorised Representative)
- **Set-up costs CHF >50 Mio., recurring costs CHF >30 Mio./year**
- **Supply gap for Swiss patients**, as many foreign manufacturers not willing to install Swiss AR
- Recommendation for action «Plan now» by Swiss Medtech, Dec. 2020

# Status MRA & MedDO

## MRA:

- Offer for amendment by EU commission
- Negotiations ongoing
- To be finalised after 26 May 2021

## MedDO (amendment):

- Text sent to Federal Council
- Planned adoption of MedDO on 19.05.2021
- Publication to follow shortly

From : DG SANTE B6 Medical Devices & DG TRADE

31 March 2021

The Commission services would like to inform that, to mitigate the risk of possible disruptions of supply of medical devices on the EU market, and to provide legal certainty to companies, the European Union will propose to Switzerland a limited modification to the current Mutual Recognition Agreement. An amendment is currently under preparation, aimed at granting certificates already issued in Switzerland for existing medical devices under the Swiss legislation equivalent to existing EU Directives the same transitional validity as the new EU Medical Devices Regulation grants to certificates issued in the EU.



# Modifications in MedDO

## **Transition period for establishment of Swiss AR (including product labeling):**

- **Until 31.12.2021:** For MD class III, implantable MD class IIb and active implantable devices
- **Until 31.03.2022:** For MD class IIa
- **Until 31.07.2022:** For MD class I

# Why are ARs needed?

## MRA (Mutual Recognition Agreement)

- MRA (last update on Dec. 2017) does not cover MDR and IVDR
- For medical products under MDR/IVDR, Switzerland becomes third country to EU
  - Access to EU-database and mutual assistance of authorities suspended
  - Need for authorised representative in EU

## Swiss Authorities: Weighing up of interests must be ensured

- Product safety
- Enforceability
- Equivalence to EU
- Security of supply
- Need for authorised representative in CH



# Problem: Import of MD to CH

Market attractiveness (market size, price level)

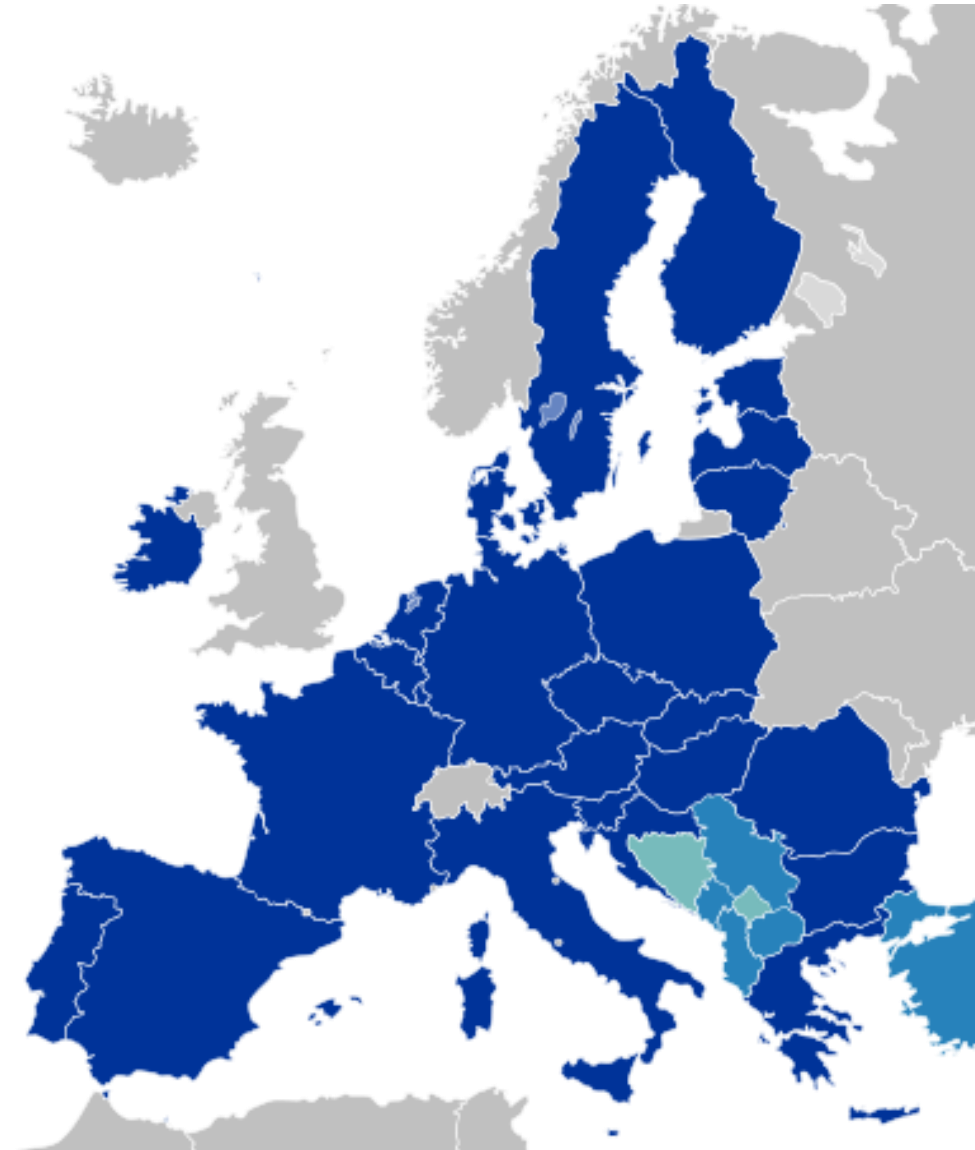
- EU: 446 Mio. inhabitants (without UK & CH)
- UK: 66 Mio. inhabitants (15% of EU)
- **CH: 8 Mio. inhabitants (2% of EU)**

Business decision of foreign manufacturer to place product on markets or not.

**Goal A:** Regulatory environment remains attractive for Swiss medtech companies

**Goal B:** The supply of Swiss patients with medical devices remains at the current level

→ Regulatory environment remains attractive for foreign medtech companies (from EU and RoW)



# How many Swiss AR are needed?

Approx. 5'000 foreign manufacturers (300'000 medical devices)

- In best case: 5'000 Swiss AR
- Divided among 100 importers/distributors and 20 consultant companies:
  - >40 mandates per company

## Hurdles:

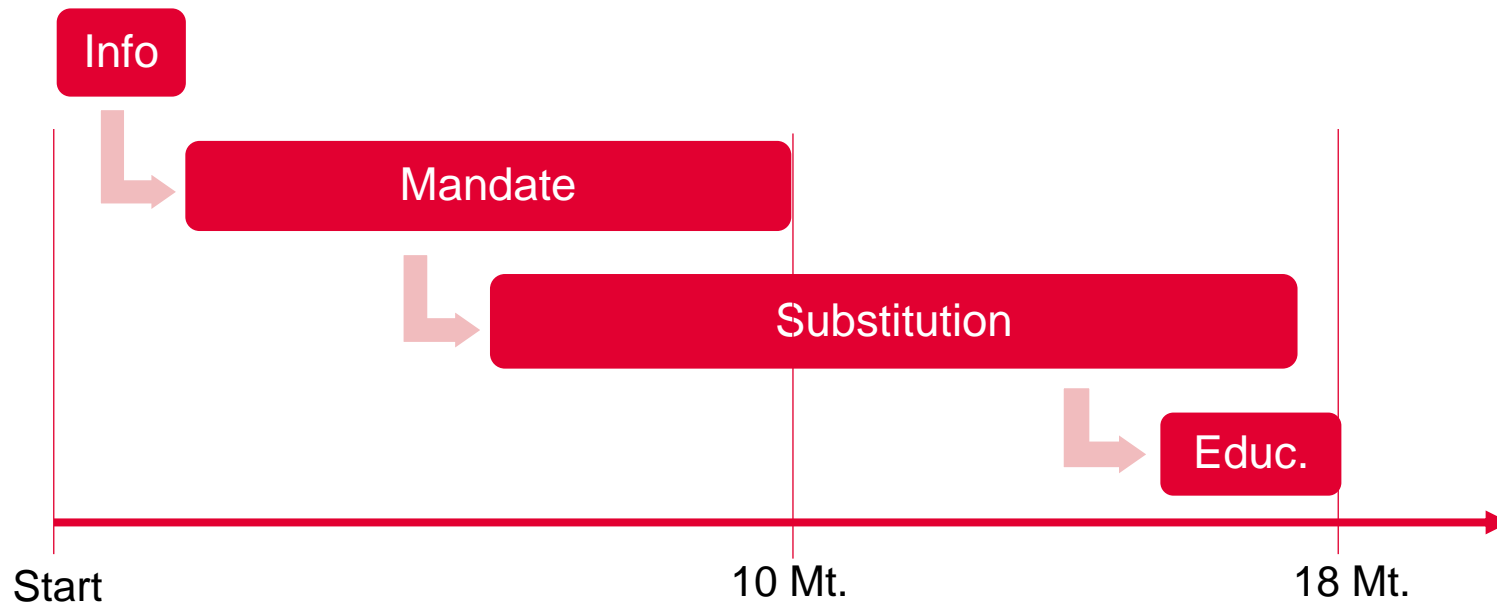
Contract negotiation for written mandate, joint liability, access to TD, responsibilities

- Needs sufficient number of Swiss AR and sufficiently long transition period

# Time needed to establish a Swiss AR

## Time needed for establishment:

- Information to foreign legal manufacturer 2 (1-6) months
- Setting-up Swiss AR (mandate, liability coverage, logistics) 8 (2-12) months
- Search for substitute products (if available) 12 (6-24) months
- Re-education of user 3 (1-12) months
- *TOTAL (average)* *25 months*



# Which MD will be missing?

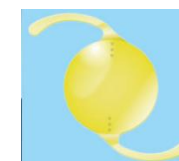
- Up to 25% of all imported MD (12% of all MD in use today)
- Which ones? Cannot be predicted today!

Depends on:

- Regulatory requirements (TP for Swiss AR)
- Willingness of Swiss companies (Swiss AR)
- Willingness of foreign companies (business case)
- Willingness to pay higher remuneration (Swiss patients)

→ **Will become clearer in Q4/2021**

(List of missing products to be established by SMT)



# Support by Swiss Medtech

## 1. Information for Swiss manufacturers

- Guidance for CH manufacturers re. EAR
- Webinars and Q&A sessions

## 2. Information for Swiss importers & distributors

- Guidance for CH distributors and importers re. Swiss rep.
- 1-pager as information for foreign suppliers
- Model contract for the appointment of a CH authorised representative
- Webinars and Q&A sessions

<https://www.swiss-medtech.ch/news/mdr-portal>

### Guide

Désignation d'un mandataire pour les dispositifs médicaux de fabricants suisses



### Guidance

Designation of a Swiss Authorised Representative under the new MedDO



# Balancing of Goods: at what Cost?

Equivalency to  
EU Law

Safety of  
Medical Device

+ 8% cost of MD due to MDR

[Source: SMTI, Sept. 2020]

Third country  
status

Enforceability

+ 2% cost for exported MD (EAR)

+ 2-10% cost for imported MD (Swiss AR)

[Source: SMT surveys from March 2020 and Nov. 2020]

Security of  
Supply

+ x% cost for substitution MD (Swiss AR)

Cost of medical devices: 12B CHF (14% of total health cost of 85B CHF)  
Cost increase of medical devices by 10% → Increase in total costs by 1.4%



# Scenarios

## 1. Worst case (situation today)

- No update of MRA, MedDO enters in force on 26 May 2021  
→ Swiss AR & importer in CH necessary for all imported MDD & MDR products after TP of MedDO (Jan-Aug 2022)

## 2. Medium case (not before June 2021)

- Small update of MRA with defined TP (3 years ?), MedDO amended again  
→ Swiss AR & importer in CH necessary for imported MDR products after TP of MedDO (Jan-Aug 2022), for imported MDD products after TP of MRA (probably May 2024)

## 3. Best case (after signing of InstA or similar agreement)

- Full update of MRA (incl. MDR & IVDR), MedDO amended again  
→ Swiss AR necessary, but can be done by EU company (legal manufacturer or EAR)