ABSOLUTE ADVICE

New legal requirements from 1 October 2026 – Transparency Register and Anti-Money Laundering Act

Dear Sir or Madam

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On 1 October 2026, new statutory provisions on the transparency of legal entities, as well as changes in the area of anti-money laundering, will come into force in Switzerland. Among other things, a Swiss transparency register for beneficial owners will be introduced. (Federal Office of Justice)

As the owner of your company, we would like to inform you at an early stage about the possible implications.

1. Transparency register / beneficial owners

Affected AGs, GmbHs and other legal entities must identify their beneficial owners and report the information required by law.

This requires, among other things, information on the beneficial natural persons as well as on the ownership and control structure.

You will need:

- First and last name of the beneficial owner(s) (copy of passport/ID or residence permit)
- Date of birth
- Residential address
- Nationality
- Information on the shareholding or control of the company
- Information on any interests held via other companies
- for more complex ownership structures, corresponding documents and evidence (organizational chart with proof of ownership)
- any further information required for the legally mandated identification
- further information may still be required

Please inform us as soon as you have successfully submitted the report. (Please send us a copy for our records.)
We would be happy to handle the required report on your behalf; to do so, you would need to send us the documents and information listed above.

2. Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA)

We would also like to point out that the new statutory provisions also bring changes in the area of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA). The AMLA applies in particular to financial intermediaries and certain activities relating to third-party assets. Under certain conditions, this can also include fiduciaries. (Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA)

Whether a company, a person acting on its behalf, or a fiduciary company is specifically subject to the AMLA depends on the actual activity and the specific powers involved. An AG or GmbH is therefore not automatically subject to the AMLA merely on account of its legal form.

Particular attention is required especially in the case of holding, domicile or shell companies, as well as activities in which individuals can dispose of company assets. (Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA)

We ask you to review your business structure with AMLA specialists or lawyers and to take the appropriate measures if:

- a pure holding or domicile structure exists,
- little or no operating activity is carried out,
- board of directors or management functions are performed by third parties,
- third parties can dispose of bank accounts or company assets,
- or special powers of attorney exist for the administration or transfer of assets.

3. Support from our fiduciary office

We would be happy to support you in reporting the beneficial owners to the transparency register.

Please provide us with the complete information and documents required so that, if you wish, we can file the report on your behalf.

Important: Responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information on beneficial owners lies in principle with the respective legal entity. Changes to the relevant circumstances must also be taken into account accordingly.

Kind regards

Your Absolute Advice AG Team