

Cash payment of vested benefits on departure to an EU or EFTA country

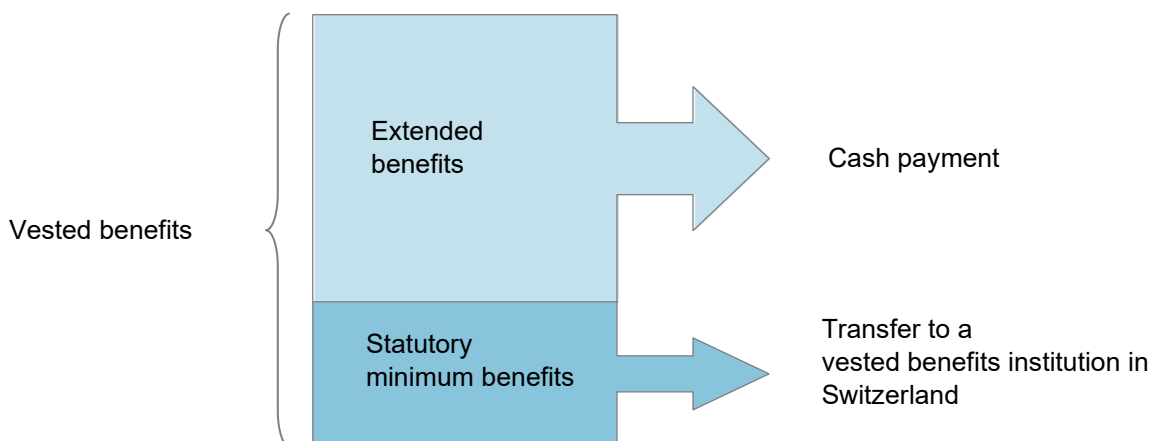
Cash payments of vested benefits when moving to an EU/EFTA country are governed by the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons between Switzerland and the EU/EFTA. This factsheet offers some answers to the most important questions about this procedure.

Who is affected?

The regulations apply to anyone, regardless of their nationality, who is leaving Switzerland permanently to take up residence in an EU member state, Iceland or Norway. Special rules apply to those moving to the Principality of Liechtenstein (see end of this factsheet for details). Those leaving Switzerland permanently for any other country can in all cases receive their entire vested benefits in cash.

In what form are vested benefits paid out?

If you move to an EU member state, Iceland or Norway, you can only receive cash payment of the vested benefits corresponding to the statutory OPA minimum if you can demonstrate that you are not subject to compulsory state insurance for retirement and the risks of death and disability in the country concerned. If you are unable to do this, only that part of your vested benefits that exceeds the statutory OPA minimum (extended benefits) can be paid out in cash. The remainder must be transferred to an account in your name at a vested benefits institution in Switzerland. It cannot be transferred to a foreign social insurance scheme.



How can I find out whether I am subject to compulsory insurance abroad?

If you are moving to an EU member state, Iceland or Norway, you can contact the [LOB Guarantee Fund](#):

LOB Guarantee Fund
Eigerplatz 2, P.O. Box 1023
3000 Bern 14

Telephone: +41 31 380 79 71
E-mail: info@sfbvg.ch

The website sfbvg.ch includes the application form for clarifying whether you are subject to compulsory insurance in the foreign country concerned as well as information sheets containing further details.

Please bear in mind that this procedure can take some time, and we will not transfer your entire vested benefits (minimum OPA benefits and extended benefits) until we have received the decision as to whether or not you are subject to compulsory state insurance.

If you have made buy-ins into your occupational pension less than three years before leaving, Article 79b para. 3 OPA stipulates that the resulting component of your vested benefits may not be paid out in cash until three years have elapsed since the buy-in, and must be transferred to a vested benefits institution at least until then.

What happens if I become self-employed in an EU or EFTA state?

Even if you move to an EU member state, Iceland or Norway in order to set up your own company, the statutory minimum component of your vested benefits will only be paid out in cash if you are not subject to compulsory insurance for retirement and the risks of death and disability in the country concerned.

What if I am a cross-border commuter?

If you move to, or are already resident in, another country but continue to work in Switzerland and are thus insured with an occupational pension scheme, your vested benefits (pension benefits) cannot be paid out in cash. They must be transferred to the pension scheme of your new employer in Switzerland.

Which countries are affected?

(status as at 1 October 2023)

- Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden: for departures after 31 May 2007

What rules apply if I move to the Principality of Liechtenstein?

There are three different scenarios:

- **Taking up employment:** If you move to the Principality of Liechtenstein to take up a job with an employer, your entire vested benefits will be transferred to the pension scheme of your employer in Liechtenstein.
- **Not working:** If you are not engaging in gainful employment, your entire vested benefits must be transferred to an account in your name at a vested benefits institution in Switzerland.
- **Becoming self-employed:** If you are taking up self-employment, your entire vested benefits must be transferred to an account in your name at a vested benefits institution in Switzerland.

Where can I obtain further information?

You can find further important information about leaving Switzerland at [publica.ch > My pension > Life events > Moving abroad](#). You can also ask your contact at PUBLICA, whose details you can find on your personal documents and at [publica.ch > My pension > Select employer](#).