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AIC 002/2024 A

Effective Date: 22-FEB-2024

End Date: 31-DEC-2024

Publication Date: 22-FEB-2024

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The Swiss Emissions Trading System - Inclusion of flights from Switzerland to the EU Outermost Regions

This regulation came into effect 01.01.2024

1. General remarks

Aircraft operators are subject to the Swiss Emissions Trading system (ETS) since 2020.

The Swiss ETS is linked to the EU ETS and the two systems apply a mirroring principle. The scope of the EU ETS will be extended to include flights from the European Economic Area to the EU Outermost Regions (OMR) as of 1.1.2024. Therefore, the mirroring principle results in the inclusion of flights from Switzerland to the EU Outermost Regions into the Swiss ETS from 2024.

2. Legal basis

Ordinance on the Reduction of CO₂ Emissions (CO₂ Ordinance; in particular Article 46d, Annex 13, Article 46g, Annex 15).

3. Scope extension from 2024

As of 1 January 2024, flights from Switzerland to the Outermost Regions of the EU, i.e. flights from Switzerland to French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island, Saint-Martin, Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, are included in the scope of the Swiss ETS. Aircraft operators must record these flights in their annual emissions reports from 2024 onwards, unless exempted for other reasons according to the $\rm CO_2$ -Ordinance. They must also surrender emission allowances corresponding to the amount of emissions from these flights.

4. Note on free allocation

Aircraft operators may apply for free allocation of emission allowances with respect to flights from Switzerland to OMR. Flights performed in year 2018 on these routes, including flight distance and associated payload, need to be reported to the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) by 31 August 2024. The evidence must be verified by a verification body in accordance with Annex 18 of the CO₂-Ordinance. Aircraft operators shall use the template supplied by the FOEN to provide this information.

5. Contact and questions

Post: Federal Office for the Environment

Climate Division

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