

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP

Chair, Business and Trade Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0PW

10 December 2025

Dear Liam,

Update on the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swiss Confederation on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment.

I am writing to update the committee on the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment.

The UK-Switzerland Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) allows goods covered under specific sectors to be tested against Swiss regulations by a designated Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) in the UK, and vice versa. This allows manufacturers to work with CABs located conveniently and removes duplicative requirements. As matters stand, elements of the UK's MRA agreements with Switzerland will end soon. The new agreement I outline below provides continuity for UK (and Swiss) businesses.

Currently, the UK and Switzerland have two MRA agreements. One dates from 2019 and one dates from 2022. The 2019 agreement will soon expire. Our new MRA agreement will merge these two agreements into one agreement and extend the provisions. This also should provide an easier path to any new arrangements under a future UK-Switzerland Free Trade Agreement. We have agreed with Switzerland to sign this new MRA on 11 December 2025 in Bern.

The merged agreement keeps the same practical benefits for businesses, with only minor text changes to integrate the 2019 annexes and clarify provisions.

The only major change is extending the agreement's duration from three to five years, giving businesses greater certainty for imports and exports.

The combined MRA will cover eight sectors in annexes:

- Good manufacturing practice of pharmaceuticals (GMP)
- Good laboratory practice of chemicals (GLP)
- Motor vehicles
- Radio equipment
- Noise emitting equipment for use outdoors
- Transportable pressure equipment

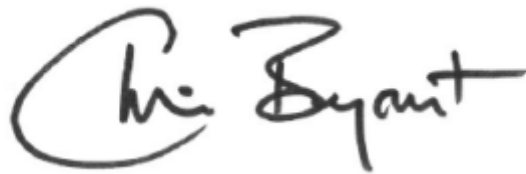
- Measuring instruments
- Electrical equipment and electromagnetic compatibility

The annexes themselves will not change, apart from small updates to keep references consistent. Future technical updates will be handled by the UK-Switzerland Joint Committee after the agreement is in place.

The agreement will apply in Great Britain but not Northern Ireland, where EU rules continue under the Windsor Framework.

We intend to lay the combined MRA before Parliament, in line with the statutory process codified in Part 2 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, in early 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Chris" is written with a large, open "C" and the last name "Bryant" follows in a similar cursive script.

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State for Trade
Department for Business and Trade