

What is an Apostille and when do you need one?

<p>An Apostille is an official certificate which authenticates the origins of a public document for use abroad. It was introduced in 1961 when the Hague Convention, commonly known as the 'Apostille Convention', was concluded (Convention de la Haye) to simplify the legalisation process. An Apostille can only be requested in the country of origin which issued the document. The country of destination must also be a signatory to the Apostille Convention.</p>	
<p>What does the Apostille look like?</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-right: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">APOSTILLE (Convention de La Haye du 5 octobre 1961)</p> <p>1. Country: This public document</p> <p>2. has been signed by</p> <p>3. acting in the capacity of</p> <p>4. bears the seal / stamp of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Certified</p> <p>5. at 6. the</p> <p>7. by</p> <p>8. N°</p> <p>9. Seal / Stamp: 10. Signature:</p> </div> <div> <p>It is a stamp, a seal, a sticker or a framed text field with 10 headings. Its appearance may vary slightly from country to country, but its content must comply with regulations and include the 10 points. Additional information is permitted but this must be featured outside of the frame.</p> </div> </div>
<p>What are the effects of an apostille?</p>	<p>An apostille certifies the origins of a document; it confirms the authorisation of the person signing it and the authenticity of the signature and the seal. The apostille does not certify the contents of the document.</p>
<p>Where is it affixed?</p>	<p>The apostille must be placed on the document itself, either on the last page or on an additional sheet. If it is on a separate sheet, this must be firmly attached to the document.</p>
<p>When is an apostille required?</p>	<p>Whenever a document issued by an 'apostille country' is used in another country which is also a party to the Hague Convention.</p>
<p>Which countries have adopted the Hague Convention?</p>	<p>Check whether your country and the country where the document shall be used are signatory to the Hague Convention. List of countries here: https://www.hcch.net/en/instruments/conventions/status-table/?cid=41</p>
<p>How do I proceed if a country is not a party to the Hague Convention?</p>	<p>Legalisation is then usually issued by the Federal Foreign Office. The Embassy or Consulate of the country concerned can provide further assistance.</p>
<p>Electronic apostille (e-Apostille)</p>	<p>Many countries issue electronic apostilles which can be ordered online. Authenticity can be checked online using a unique code. This offer is not available in Switzerland.</p>
<p>How much does an apostille cost?</p>	<p>The prices vary within Switzerland. In the canton of Bern, an apostille costs CHF 25.</p>

