

A1 — Certificate concerning the Social Security legislation which applies to the holder



Information about the A1 form and its use

1. The A1 form

The A1 form certifies which social security legislation applies to the holder of the form. It will generally be needed in situations where you, as an employed or self-employed person, have a connection with more than one EU country ⁽¹⁾. Under the EU rules a person is only subject to the legislation of one country at any one time. The A1 is issued by the country to whose legislation you are subject and confirms that you are not subject to the legislation of any other country you are connected with – in other words you will have no obligation to pay social security (including health insurance) contributions in the other countries. The A1 remains valid until the date of expiry, indicated at the form or until it is withdrawn by the issuing institution.

2. Where and when to obtain your A1 form

If you are an employed person who goes to work temporarily in another EU country, your employer will normally apply for the A1 on your behalf to the relevant institution in your country. Employed persons who normally pursue activities in more than one EU country and self-employed persons apply in their own right. Please check with your employer the procedure to be applied. A full list of institutions can be found at http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/work/social-security-forms/contact_points_pd_a1.pdf. Whenever possible, the application should be made before the activity begins in the other country.

3. Use of the A1 form

The A1 should be kept available to be presented by you or your employer to the institution in the country you are working in, to confirm your social security position and to indicate in which country the security contributions will have to be paid.

4. Which situations does the A1 form cover?

- **When you are sent by your employer to work temporarily in another EU country on his behalf for a maximum period of 24 months. This is known as a “posting”.** The conditions for posting are explained in the Practical Guide on applicable legislation, which can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=868>. If all the conditions for posting are fulfilled, the A1 form will be issued at request and confirm that you will remain subject to the legislation of the state you were posted from.
- **When you are normally self-employed in an EU country and go to pursue a similar activity in another country for a maximum period of 24 months.** Also here, if all the conditions for posting are fulfilled, the A1 form will confirm that you will remain subject to the legislation of the state you were posted from.
- **When you are normally employed in more than one EU country at the same time or in alternation.** Depending on your situation, you may be subject to the legislation of either your country of residence or the country in which the registered office or place of business of your employer is situated. To know more about the conditions to determine to which legislation you are subject, please consult the Practical Guide on applicable legislation, which can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=868>.
- **When you are normally self-employed in more than one EU country at the same time or in alternation.** Depending on your situation, you may be subject to the legislation of either your country of residence or the country where your centre of interest is situated. To know more about the conditions to determine to which legislation you are subject, please consult Practical Guide on applicable legislation, which can be found at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=868>.

⁽¹⁾ In the following text, the terms “EU Country” or “EU Member State” will also refer to Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

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- **When you pursue both an employed and self-employed activity in different EU countries.** In this situation, the A1 form will confirm that the legislation of the country of your employed activities prevails, provided they are not only marginal.
- **When you pursue an activity as an employed or self-employed person in only one EU country and, for this reason, want to be exempted from the social insurance in another country (e.g. your country of residence).** In this situation, the A1 form will confirm that you are only subject to the legislation of the country of employment. The A1 form will be issued by request.
- **When you are working as a civil servant, a mariner, a flight or cabin crew member or as contract staff for the European Union.** In this situation, the A1 form will confirm by which legislation you are covered.
- **When it is your interest to derogate from any of the above rules,** two or more EU states may, on your request or the request of your employer, agree that you will be subject to the legislation of a state other than provided by the normal rules. The A1 form will confirm to which legislation you are subject.