

MAT[CH]zip

Postcode index

The MAT[CH]zip postcode index contains all postcodes valid for addressing in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. MAT[CH]zip is free of charge and available for downloading without any restrictions at any time at www.swisspost.ch/match > Basic data.

What does MAT[CH]zip offer?

The following is a brief description of the four different MAT[CH]zip products. The file name date is displayed as YYYYMMDD.

PLZ light – PLZ_L_datum.txt

Includes all postcodes valid for addressing for Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. This product is limited to the necessary data elements and is only available as a complete list of all postcodes.

PLZ plus (existing) – PLZ_P1_datum.txt resp. PLZ_P2_datum.txt

Includes all valid postcodes for Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Compared with PLZ light, PLZ plus (existing) contains additional data elements such as alternative locality names, area names and municipality numbers assigned by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO). PLZ plus (existing) comprises two files. The first contains all postcodes, and the second supplementary file includes alternative locality and area names.

PLZ plus (changes) – PLZ_P1UP_datum.txt resp. PLZ_P2UP_datum.txt

Based on the PLZ plus (existing) product. It includes only those data records which have been changed since the last delivery, i.e. new, deleted or otherwise changed data records.

PLZ community (Bfs) – PLZ_C_datum.txt

Comprises municipalities in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein, including the municipality name and FSO municipality number, the canton and the conurbation. These data are taken from the official FSO list and are thus subject to © FSO copyright.

Update frequency

The data are updated constantly and are available for download by the first business day of the month at the latest.

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If you have any questions, please contact the Address Centre of Excellence or visit our website.

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	PLZ light	PLZ plus	PLZ community (Bfs)
Existing data	PLZ_L_datum.txt	PLZ_P1_datum.txt	PLZ_C_datum.txt
	Postcode data, few data elements	Postcode data, additional data elements	Municipality data
	Primary key = ONRP	Primary key = ONRP	Primary key = BFSNR
Changed data		PLZ_P2_datum.txt	
		Alternative and area names	
		Primary key = ONRP + consec. no.	
		PLZ_P1UP_datum.txt	
		Data for PLZ_P1_...	
		PLZ_P2UP_datum.txt	
		Data for PLZ_P2_...	

Description of PLZ light

All files are zipped and available in ASCII ISO 8859-1 format. The record length varies. The individual data fields are separated by tabs (ASCII value 09).

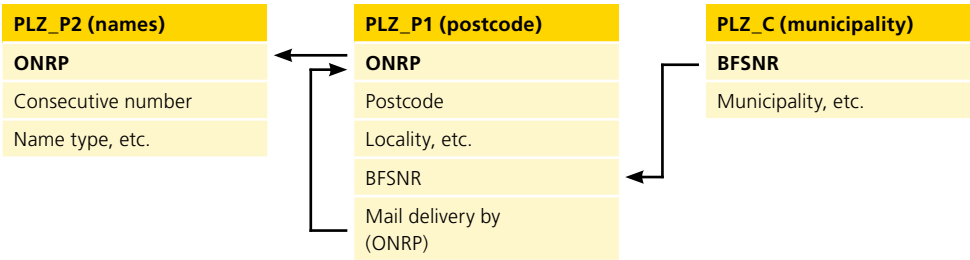
Beschreibung der Datei PLZ light

Data element	Field no.	Type	Man-datory field	Max. length	Description
Swiss Post classification no. (ONRP)	1	Num	Yes	5	Primary key for postcode/town (postcode database). The Swiss Post classification number is the unique, unchangeable key term in the postcode. Each new postcode is assigned a new ONRP. An ONRP does not change, whereas a postcode may change. If a postcode is discontinued, the assigned ONRP must no longer be used. If – in rare cases – the postcode is reactivated, this is done using the original ONRP.
Postcode type	2	Num	Yes	2	The postcode type can be used to check if a postcode is basically plausible for certain addresses. 10 = domicile and P.O. box addresses 20 = only domicile addresses 30 = only P.O. box 40 = company postcodes 80 = internal postcodes (indicates the delivery post office on bundle slips or on bag labels)
Postcode	3	Num	Yes	4	Address postcode. Switzerland is divided into nine routing areas, numbered from west to east. Each routing area is divided into routing districts. Each routing district has a maximum of one hundred units. The postcodes are structured as follows: 3436 = Zolbrück 3 = routing district (Berne) 34 = routing area (Burgdorf) 343 = route (Burgdorf – Langnau) 3436 = post office number (Zolbrück) Valid figures: 1000–9999
Additional postcode digits	4	Num	Yes	2	The additional digit serves to distinguish 4-digit postcodes, e.g. 4436 00 = Oberdorf BL vs. 4436 02 = Liedertswil. Address files must contain a postcode and additional digit. Error-free sorting is possible only with a postcode and additional digit. Please note: the additional digits must not appear in the postal address on the item.
Locality name, 18-character	5	Char	Yes	18	The locality line in the postal address must include the 18 or 27-character locality name (= official locality name). The 4-digit postode combined with the 18 or 27-character locality name is unique. Longer locality names are abbreviated to the available field length, e.g. «Neuhausen am Rheinfal»: ■ 18 characters: Neuhausen ■ 27 characters: Neuhausen am Rheinfal
Locality name, 27-character	6	Char	Yes	27	
Canton	7	Char	Yes	2	Official abbreviations (vehicle registrations) are used. See the annex for a complete list.

PLZ plus (existing) files

With the PLZ plus product, the data from several files can be linked. The following is a list of the possible combinations.

- **One** postcode indicates **one** municipality
- **One** municipality can have **several** postcodes
- **One** postcode can be linked with **several** names
- **One** postcode can contain **one** «mail delivery by»
- **One** «mail delivery by» can be linked with **several** postcodes



A postcode area can extend over two or more municipalities. However, **only one** municipality is indicated for each postcode. This is the municipality with the largest number of building addresses in the corresponding postcode area.

Example:

The postcode area «3048 Worblaufen» includes the municipalities of Berne and Ittigen. Four-fifths of all building addresses in 3048 Worblaufen are in the Ittigen municipality. The postcode 3048 is thus assigned to the municipality of Ittigen.

Description of the PLZ_P1 file

Data element	Field no.	Type	Man-datory field	Max. length	Description
Swiss Post classification no. (ONRP)	1	Num	Yes	5	See description of PLZ light file
Postcode type	2	Num	Yes	2	
Postcode	3	Num	Yes	4	
Additional postcode digits	4	Num	Yes	2	
Locality name, 18-character	5	Char	Yes	18	
Locality name, 27-character	6	Char	Yes	27	
Canton	7	Char	Yes	2	
Language code	8	Num	Yes	1	Language (language majority) within a postcode area. 1 = German, 2 = French, 3 = Italian, 4 = Romansh. For multi-lingual localities, the main language is indicated.
Alternative language code	9	Num	–	1	Additional language within a postcode. One alternative language code may appear for each postcode.
Present in sort file	10	Num	Yes	1	Indicates if the postcode is included in the «sort file» (MAT[CH]sort): 0 = not included, 1 = included. Delivery information with addresses (only postcode and streets) are published in the sort file.
Mail delivery by	11	Num	–	5	Indicates the post office (ONRP) that delivers most of the letters to the postcode addresses. This information can be used for bag addresses too.
FSO municipality number (BFSNR)	12	Num	Yes	5	Numbering used by the Federal Statistical Office for municipalities in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein
Validity date	13	Date	Yes	8	Indicates as of when the dates are valid (format YYYYMMDD)

PLZ_P2 file

Data element	Field no.	Type	Man-datory field	Max. length	Description
Swiss Post classification no. (ONRP)	1	Num	Yes	5	See description of PLZ light file
Consecutive number	2	Num	Yes	3	Consecutive number for the name within an ONRP. The consecutive number is a number assigned to each alternative or area name as a key. If deleted, it is not re-used. Valid figures range from 001–999.
Name type	3	Num	Yes	1	There are two types of name: 2 = alternative or foreign-language locality name for addressing. It may used together with the postcode, e.g. 6085 Hasliberg Goldern > 6085 Goldern or 1200 Genève > 1200 Genf 3 = area name. It may be used in the address line, but not together with the postcode in the locality line, e.g. the area name Teingerbad must be addressed as: Tenigerbad 7173 Surrein
Language code	4	Num	Yes	1	See description of PLZ light file
Name, 18 characters	5	Char	Yes	18	
Name, 27 characters	6	Char	Yes	27	

PLZ plus (changes) files

Description of the PLZ_P1UP file

The PLZ_P1UP file contains the same data elements as PLZ_P1 (field nos. 1-13) plus the following data elements:

Data element	Field no.	Type	Mandatory field	Max. length	Description
Update sequence	14	Num	Yes	5	Indicates in which order the changes should be processed in an update file.
Update status	15	Num	Yes	1	Update status options: 1 = new data record/new ONRP 2 = changed data record (update of a postcode or one of its attributes, e.g. locality name > ONRP remains unchanged) 3 = discontinued 4 = Postcode reactivated (a postcode can be reactivated in rare cases > ONRP and postcode are reactivated)
P.O. box substitute postcode	16	Num	–	6	If a postcode is discontinued, it is sometimes possible that all P.O. box addresses from the former postco «other» postcode must be indicated in the «P.O. box substitute postcode» field. Accordingly, the primary key for the «other» postcode is indicated in the ONRP field for the substitute postcode. If, for example, «6882 00 Brusata» is discontinued with update status 3, «6830 01» (Chiasso 1) is indicated as a substitute postcode for P.O. box addresses.
ONRP for substitute postcode P.O. box	17	Num	–	5	
Domicile substitute postcode	18	Num	–	6	If a postcode is discontinued, it is sometimes possible that all domicile addresses from the former postcode will be assigned to another postcode (= substitute postcode). In this case, the «other» postcode must be indicated in the «Domicile substitute postcode» field. Accordingly, the primary key for the «other» postcode is indicated in the ONRP field for the domicile substitute postcode. If, for example, «6882 00 Brusata» is discontinued with update status 3, «6883 00» (Novazzano) is indicated as a domicile substitute postcode.
ONRP for domicile substitute postcode	19	Num	–	5	

Description of the PLZ_P2UP file

The PLZ_P2UP file contains the same data elements as PLZ_P2 (field nos. 1-6) plus the following data elements:

Data element	Field no.	Type	Mandatory field	Max. length	Description
Update sequence	7	Num	Yes	5	Indicates in which order the changes should be processed in an update file.
Update status	8	Num	Yes	1	Update status options: 1 = new data record/new name 2 = changed data record 3 = discontinued
Area name: «Own postcode, new»	9	Num	–	6	An area name is given a new postcode of its own. Accordingly, the primary key for the new postcode is indicated in the «Own postcode, new» field. For example, the area name «Hattenhausen» was formerly listed under postcode «8564 05 Lipperswil». In future, it will be listed as a separate postcode under «8564 07 Hattenhausen»: In this case, the area name «Hattenhausen» is discontinued in the update file with update status 3 and indicated as «8564 07» (Hattenhausen) under «Area name, own postcode».
Area name: ONRP for «Own postcode, new»	10	Num	–	5	
Area name: «Postcode absorbed, new»	11	Num	–	6	An area name is assigned to another postcode. Accordingly, the primary key for the new postcode is indicated in the ONRP «Postcode absorbed, new» field. For example, the area name «Befieux» was formerly listed under postcode «1896 00 Vouvy». In future, it will be listed under the already existing postcode «1899 00 Torgon». In this case, the area name «Befieux» is discontinued under postcode «1896 00 Vouvy» in the update file with update status 3 and indicated as «1899 00» (Torgon) under «Area name, postcode absorbed, new».
Area name: ONRP for «Postcode absorbed, new»	12	Num	–	5	

The PLZ community BfS file

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Data element	Field no.	Type	Man-datory field	Max. length	Description																				
FSO municipality number (BFSNR)	1	Num	Yes	5	Numbering used by the Federal Statistical Office for municipalities in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein																				
Municipality name	2	Char	Yes	30	Official name of the municipality according to the Federal Statistical Office's «List of Swiss Municipalities»																				
Canton	3	Char	Yes	2	Canton abbreviation (vehicle registration). See description of PLZ light file or complete list in the annex .																				
Conurbation number	4	Num	–	5	<p>The conurbations are determined by the Federal Statistical Office (Switzerland has 34 conurbations): the centre of a conurbation is the core municipality, i.e. a town or city that forms the hub for economic and cultural activity and for a region's services. In addition to the construction-related connections between the core municipality and the outlying municipalities, commuter relations within a conurbation are also required.</p> <table><thead><tr><th>BFSNR</th><th>Municipality name</th><th>Conurbation no. (=BFSNR)</th><th>Conurbation name (=Municipality name)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>351</td><td>Berne (= core municipality)</td><td>351</td><td>Berne</td></tr><tr><td>352</td><td>Bolligen</td><td>351</td><td>Berne</td></tr><tr><td>362</td><td>Ittigen</td><td>351</td><td>Berne</td></tr><tr><td>358</td><td>Stettlen</td><td>351</td><td>Berne</td></tr></tbody></table>	BFSNR	Municipality name	Conurbation no. (=BFSNR)	Conurbation name (=Municipality name)	351	Berne (= core municipality)	351	Berne	352	Bolligen	351	Berne	362	Ittigen	351	Berne	358	Stettlen	351	Berne
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362	Ittigen	351	Berne																						
358	Stettlen	351	Berne																						

Annex

The canton «FL» is indicated for municipalities and postcodes in the Principality of Liechtenstein, in accordance with the official list of the Federal Statistical Office.

For localities in Germany and Italy with a Swiss postcode, Swiss Post has defined the values «DE» and «IT» in the canton field.

Canton	Canton	Canton	Canton
AG	Aargau	OW	Obwalden
AI	Appenzell Innerrhoden	SG	St Gallen
AR	Appenzell Ausserrhoden	SH	Schaffhausen
BE	Berne	SO	Solothurn
BL	Basel-Landschaft	SZ	Schwyz
BS	Basel-Stadt	TG	Thurgau
FL	Principality of Liechtenstein	TI	Ticino
FR	Fribourg	UR	Uri
GE	Geneva	VD	Vaud
GL	Glarus	VS	Valais
GR	Graubünden	ZG	Zug
JU	Jura	ZH	Zurich
LU	Lucerne	DE	Germany (only for 8238 Büsingen)
NE	Neuchâtel	IT	Italy (only for 6911 Campione)
NW	Nidwalden		

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