

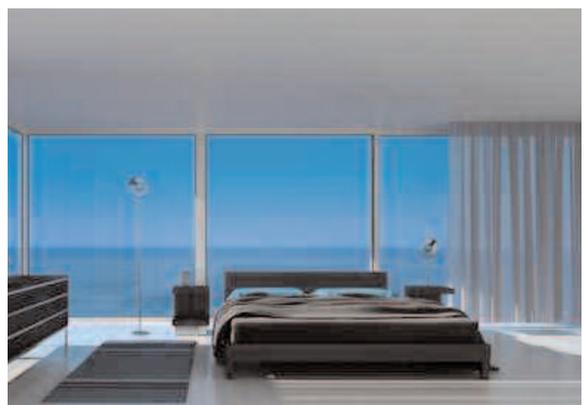
Healthy premises – overall well-being

Hotelrooms



# Facts about allergies and indoor pollutants

- 1 Indoor allergy triggers and pollutants: a problem of growing public health and economic importance. A proportion of around 25 % of the Swiss population is affected by an allergy. This means around 2,000,000 sufferers live with the problem in Switzerland – and the trend is upwards. Allergies can cause severe health impairment.
- 2 In Switzerland, approximately 5 % of the population is affected by allergy to house dust mite. These are in 8 million inhabitants 400,000 potential customers. Bed rehabilitation is the first and most effective measure when suffering from a dust mite allergy.
- 3 Indoor pollutants can trigger or aggravate allergic diseases: sometimes they act as allergy triggers themselves (e.g. formaldehyde) and may increase the sensitivity of the mucous membranes (eyes, nose, gut, airways) and hence cause a greater probability of allergies.
- 4 Pollen allergy (hay fever) is the most common allergic disease in our latitudes. In Switzerland around 1.2 million people (15-20% of the population) are affected.
- 5 Allergen- and pollutant-free indoor premises lead to a measurable increase in well-being and efficiency. By offering «rooms for allergy sufferers», you are accommodating a great need of your many guests.



# Requirements for indoor premises (extract from the regulation)

## Specific requirements

The requirements for an object or a service carrying the Swiss Allergy Label comprise at least an indoor room optimised for allergy sufferers («allergy-friendly room») and comprehensive on-site allergen management (cleaning, plants, pets, training), which can be verified by a quality management system such as, for example, ISO 9001, Q3 or equivalent management system. The integrating element of the concept is comprehensive information to guests. The following requirements are binding for an object awarded the Swiss Allergy Label:

### Indoor room («allergy-friendly room»)

An object or a service carrying the Swiss Allergy Label must have at least one indoor room optimised for allergy sufferers (e.g. hotel room, office) that fulfils the following requirements:

#### Facilities

- Non-smoker room
- Floorings with a smooth surface (e.g. parquet, polyolefin, linoleum or stone floorings or short-piled synthetic carpet)
- Avoidance of textiles (e.g. for furniture and curtains)
- Mite-proof covers for mattress, duvet and pillow-cases
- Provision of emergency replacement furnishings comprising mite-proof covers for mattress, duvet and pillows (for at least 2 beds) and an emergency replacement pollen screen in order to re-fit a standard room as an allergy-friendly room
- Provision of hypoallergenic supplies (e.g. soap, shower gel, shampoo)
- Avoidance of plants, cut flowers and “dust traps”
- Windows with pollen screen or air-conditioning (air supply and quality of air in the room meet the requirements of recognized guidelines, GI guidelines)
- Information to guests about the precautions taken and use of the facilities.

## Cleaning

- Cleaning with hypoallergenic cleaning products (with regard to mites, pollen, fungi, hair, e.g. use of a vacuum cleaner with HEPA filter system)
- Use of hypoallergenic detergents for washing bed-linen, towels and any guests' laundry
- Information to guests about the type and use of cleaning products  
Reinigungsmittel

### Avoidance of plants with allergenic potency throughout the business

The following allergising plants must not be present throughout the business:

- Ficus benjamina
- Philodendron bipennifolium
- Yucca aloifolia

### Ban on pets in hotel businesses

The ban on pets is confined to the hotel or individual wings of the hotel. Pets are permitted in restaurant premises that are structurally separated from hotel rooms.

### Allergen management

In-house quality management, e.g. in accordance with ISO 9001, Q3 or an equivalent management system, fulfilling at least the following requirements must be demonstrated:

- Description of the management of indoor rooms («allergy-friendly room») and cleaning and washing processes
- Instruction and further training of employees in the area of allergen management
- Concept for handling emergency situations with allergy sufferers

### Claims and additional information

Claims such as «allergy-friendly rooms», «allergy-friendly hotel», «our hotel has four allergy-friendly rooms» and additional information such as «located over 1200 metres above sea level», «dog-free hotel» or «we use hypoallergenic cleaning products» are permitted.

# Good reasons to think about the certification of your rooms

With the Swiss Allergy Label your business sets an example and shows its commitment in the healthcare sector.

## Your Benefit

- Thanks to allergen- and pollutant-free premises, you benefit from satisfied users, whether your hotel guests or employees.
- Certified premises allow for clear positioning and differentiation from the competition.
- Rooms awarded the Swiss Allergy Label are regarded as a quality product and benefit from image and expertise transfer from Service Allergie Suisse SA and aha! Swiss Allergy Centre
- Businesses with certified premises have the opportunity of focused and direct communication to a very large target group.
- Service Allergie Suisse SA coordinates for you the audit process by independent institutions and advises as well as supports you throughout the certification procedure.

## Our services

- Service Allergie Suisse SA undertakes the entire coordination, including document management and all the associated tasks.
- Integration of certified businesses (images/text/links) on the websites [www.service-allergie-suisse.ch](http://www.service-allergie-suisse.ch) with a link to the customer's website.
- Recommendation of certified businesses to partners in our network (doctors and associations), at selected events and on the aha! infoline for sufferers.
- The certified items will be incorporated on a case-by-case basis into the marketing activities of Service Allergie Suisse and aha! Swiss Allergy Centre and mentioned in relevant presentations, all kinds of information events (training courses, events, trade fairs and internet portals, e.g. kiknet) and in lectures and seminars.
- Benefit of the high media presence of aha! Swiss Allergy Centre in connection with the Swiss Allergy Label.

## The Swiss Allergy Label

The Swiss Allergy Label is a seal of quality identifying products, premises and services that are particularly suitable for people suffering from allergies and intolerances. It offers affected persons additional benefits, increase their safety and simplify their everyday life.

The Label is issued by Service Allergie Suisse, an independent label agency and certification body. In cooperation with leading physicians and independent auditing organisations, Service Allergie Suisse tests products and services according to very rigorous guidelines to ensure they are safe for people with allergies and intolerances.

## The Certification Process

Certification is a multi-stage process. The application is first examined for technical and scientific accuracy and to ensure that it complies with regulations (criteria for indoor premises), in a second step, it is submitted to a medical advisory board for evaluation. Finally, an external, independent institute inspects the premises and procedures on site.

If the requirements are met, the certificate and licence agreement are issued by the certifying body Service Allergie Suisse SA.

For more information about the Labels and the certification procedures, please contact:

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