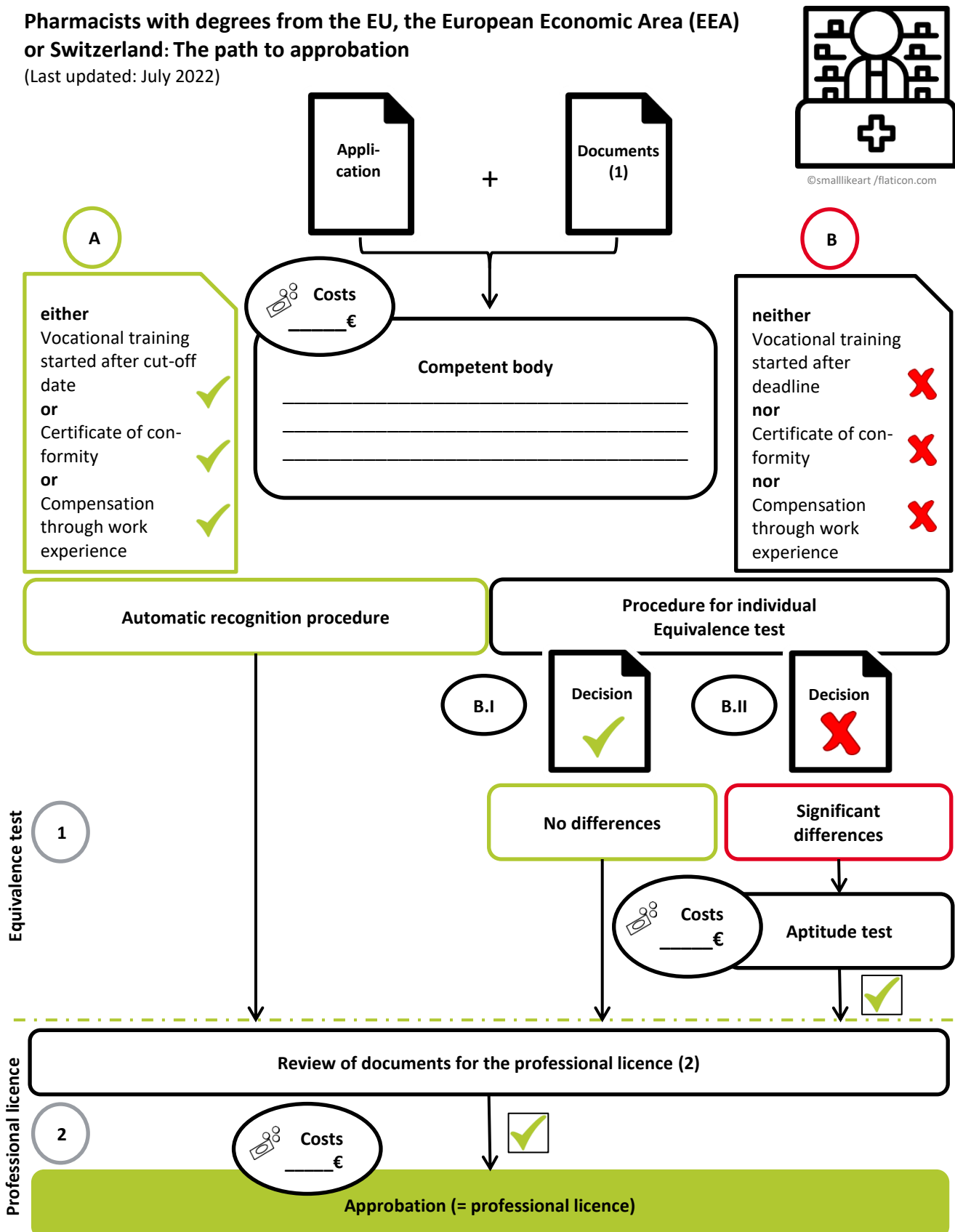


## Pharmacists with degrees from the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland: The path to approbation

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In order to be allowed to work as a pharmacist in Germany, you need state recognition, i.e. a so-called approbation, to practise as a pharmacist. In order to obtain your approbation, a check must be conducted as to whether your degree from abroad is equivalent to a German degree as a pharmacist.

To do this, you must submit an application to a “Anerkennungsstelle” (recognition body). This certifies a person’s professional recognition. Processing the application costs money. The review of your application takes place in two steps:

1. **Review of equivalence:** The recognition body checks whether the content of your vocational training corresponds to a German qualification as a pharmacist (automatic recognition (A) or content-related examination (B)).
2. **Review of the professional licence (approbation):** The recognition body checks whether you are granted the licence to practise (approbation). This will only be checked once the content check has been completed. You can only work as a pharmacist in Germany without restrictions if you receive the approbation (licence to practise).

You must submit an officially certified copy of the following documents:

### Documents for the assessment of equivalence (1)

- Completed application form
- Proof of identity
- Curriculum vitae
- Training certificates and final certificates
- Overview of subjects and grades (only in case B)
- Evidence of professional experience (only in case B)
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### Documents for the professional licence (2)

- Language certificate C1
- Certificate of health-related suitability
- Official certificate of good conduct (“amtliches Führungszeugnis”)
- Criminal background check
- Certificate of good standing
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### (A) Automatic recognition procedure

There are two ways in which your equivalence test can proceed. One possibility is the automatic recognition procedure. Your professional qualification automatically corresponds to the German qualification as a pharmacist if your vocational training is listed in Annex V of EU Directive 36/2005/EC and you started your training after a certain cut-off date (= EU accession of your training state). If your training is not listed in Annex V of the Directive, you must provide a certificate of conformity (= certificate that your training meets the minimum standards according to Directive 36/2005/EC). If you started your training before the deadline, you must provide proof of three years of professional experience as a pharmacist in the last five years.

### (B) Procedure for the individual equivalence test

If you cannot fulfil any of the conditions, then the recognition body will check the documents submitted. In doing so, it compares whether there are differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany (content check). Proven professional experience will also be taken into account in the review. The competent body will send you the result in a decision by post.

If there are no differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany, then you will receive a notice of full equivalence (**B.I**). This means that your professional qualification is equivalent to the German qualification as a pharmacist. Now, there will be a review to see whether you will receive your approbation (licence to practise).

However, there may also be differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany (**B.II**). Your decision will then state that you have to take an aptitude test. The examiners may ask you about your deficits during the aptitude test. In other words, only regarding the missing content. If you have successfully completed the aptitude test, you will receive a notification of full equivalence.