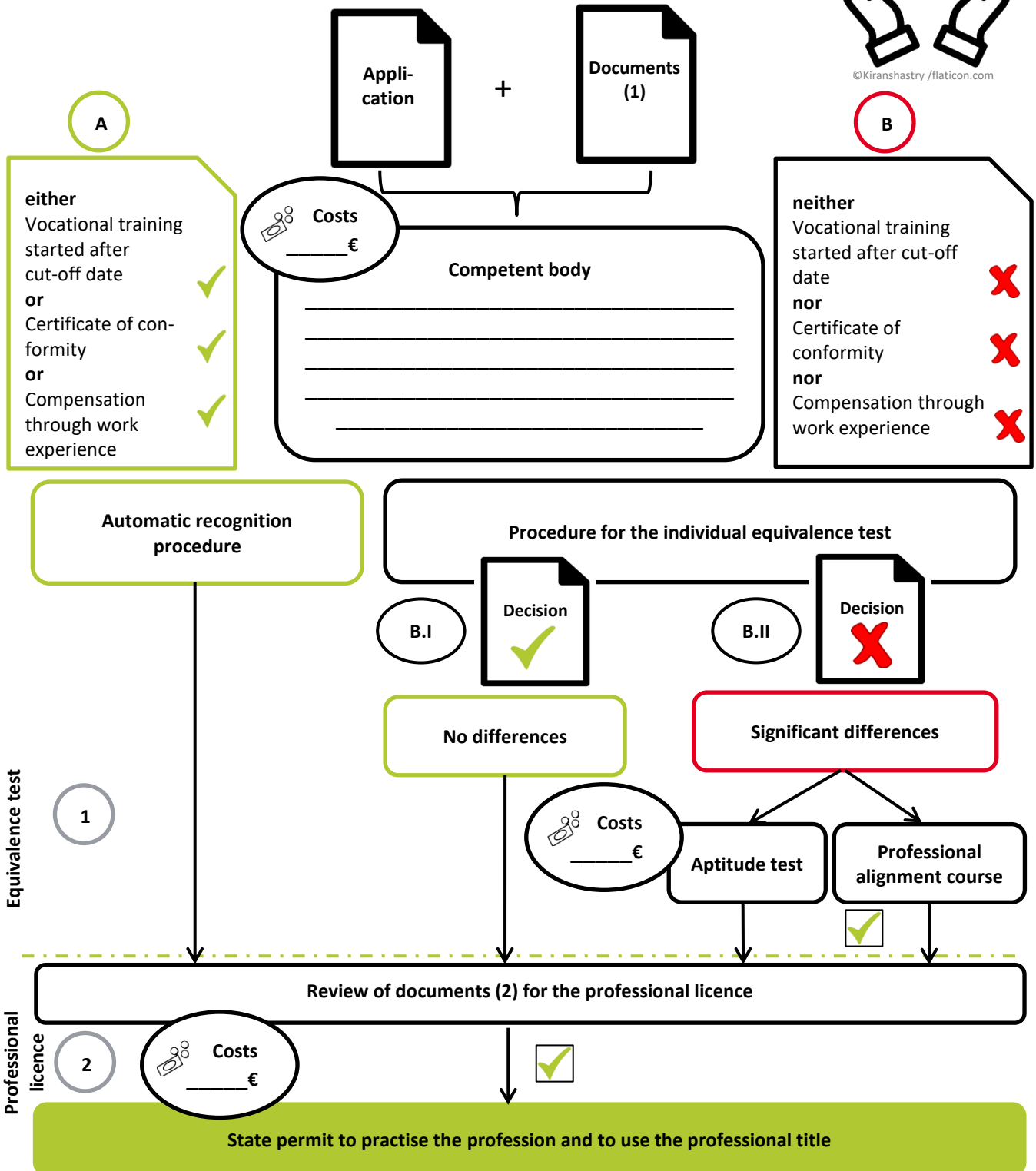


Nursing specialists with degrees from the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland: The path to professional recognition

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In order to be allowed to work as a nursing specialist in Germany, you need a state permit that entitles you to use the job title and to practise the profession. In order to obtain this permit, you must have it checked whether your qualification from abroad is equivalent to a German qualification as a nursing specialist. 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 nursing specialist (automatic recognition (A) or content-related examination (B)).
2. **Review of the professional licence:** The recognition body checks whether you are granted a professional licence. This will only be checked once the content check has been completed. You may only work as a nursing specialist in Germany if you are granted permission to use the professional title.

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

Documents for the assessment of equivalence (1)	Documents for the professional licence (2)
• Completed application form	• Language certificate
• Curriculum vitae	• Official certificate of good conduct (“amtliches Führungszeugnis”)
• Training certificates and final certificates	• Certificate of health-related suitability
• Proof of identity	•
• Evidence of professional experience	•

(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 nursing specialist if you can meet at least one of these conditions: Vocational training was acquired after a certain deadline (= EU accession of your vocational training state), presentation of a certificate of conformity (= certificate that your training meets the minimum standards according to Directive 36/2005/EC).

(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 nursing specialist.

However, there may also be differences between your vocational training and the vocational training in Germany (**B.II**). You can choose whether to take an aptitude test or complete a professional alignment course of no more than three years. 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.