



About the Common Logo and Safe Online Pharmacies in the EU

In the European Union (EU), it is possible to buy medicines online. Patients should only buy medicines from online retailers registered with the national competent authorities in the EU Member States, to reduce the risk of buying sub-standard or falsified medicines. The European Commission has introduced a common logo that appears on the websites of these registered retailers.

Legal framework

The legal framework for the common logo is set out in European Commission [Directive 2001/83/EC](#) as amended by [Directive 2011/62/EU](#) on falsified medicines for human use and by the [Implementing Regulation 699/2014](#) on 24 June 2014.

Look out for the logo

To stay safe when buying medicines online, **look out for the logo**. The logo is clickable and will appear on the websites of all online medicine retailers in the EU that are registered with their national regulatory authority.

Clicking on the logo will take you to the register of online retailers of the country where the retailer is established and registered, corresponding to the flag displayed on the logo. Once there, **check that the retailer is listed**. Do not continue with your purchase if the retailer is not on the list.

The **national flag** and the **text** are an integral part of the logo. Only national flags of an EU Member State, as well as those of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein can be displayed. A logo that displays the EU flag, for example, is not authentic.

Dangers of falsified medicines

When you buy medicines from unregistered sources you are at greater risk of purchasing [falsified medicines](#). These medicines may not have passed through the usual **rigorous evaluation processes** that ensure that a medicine is fit for the EU market.

Falsified medicines may contain ingredients of low quality or in the wrong doses; be deliberately and fraudulently mislabelled with respect to identity or source; have fake packaging, wrong ingredients, or low levels of active ingredients. As a result, these medicines **may not work or may be harmful**. The consequences of taking falsified medicines can be serious for patients and may include the disease being untreated or treatment failure; unexpected or severe side effects; and/or dangerous interactions with medicines the patient is already taking.

List of registers of online medicine retailers

	EU Member State	Register of online retailers
	Austria	https://versandapotheeken.basq.gv.at (DE)
	Belgium	http://www.fagg-afmps.be (NL) http://www.fagg-afmps.be (FR)
	Bulgaria	http://www.bda.bg (BG)
	Croatia	http://www.halmed.hr (HR)

	Cyprus	http://www.moh.gov.cy (EL) http://www.moh.gov.cy (EN)
	Czech Republic	http://www.sukl.eu (EN)
	Denmark	http://laegemiddelstyrelsen.dk (DK) http://laegemiddelstyrelsen.dk (EN)
	Estonia	http://rkav.sm.ee (ET/EN)
	Finland	http://www.fimea.fi (FI)
	France	www.ordre.pharmacien.fr (FR)
	Germany	http://www.dimdi.de (DE)
	Greece	To be made available shortly
	Hungary	http://www.ogyei.gov.hu (HU)
	Ireland	http://thepsi.ie (EN)
	Italy	http://www.salute.gov.it (IT) http://www.salute.gov.it (IT)
	Latvia	https://www.zva.gov.lv (LV) https://www.zva.gov.lv (EN)
	Lithuania	http://www.vvkt.lt (LT)
	Luxembourg	To be made available shortly
	Malta	http://medicinesauthority.gov.mt (EN)
	Netherlands	http://www.aanbiedersmedicijnen.nl (NL)
	Poland	https://www.qif.gov.pl (PL)
	Portugal	http://www.infarmed.pt (PT)
	Romania	To be made available shortly
	Slovakia	http://www.sukl.sk (SK)
	Slovenia	http://www.mz.gov.si (SI)
	Spain	www.distafarma.aemps.es (ES)
	Sweden	https://lakemedelsverket.se (SE)
	United Kingdom	www.gov.uk/mhra (EN)
EEA Member States		
	Iceland	To be made available shortly
	Liechtenstein	To be made available shortly
	Norway	https://legemiddelverket.no (NO)

Source: [European Medicines Agency](http://www.ema.europa.eu)