

FACTSHEET

The Most Important Changes for the Building Permits of Temporary Construction Projects for the World Economic Meeting 2027

Attention: This is not an overview of the most important rules of the WEF Construction and Logistics concept, but only of the most important adjustments made in comparison to the previous year. A complete list of all Regulations will be included in the WEF 2027 Guidelines, and published at the end of April.

I. Changes to the approval procedure and approval regulations

Topic	Details
Approval Area	The so-called approval area, that is, the perimeter within which the TP WEF regulations generally apply, will be slightly expanded for the first time.
Permit requirements for the change of use of restaurants and clubs/bars.	Restaurants may still close their doors without a permit to provide meals for private functions. However, if a restaurant, club, or bar is rented out to one or more end users as an event location, and the restaurant, club, or bar is no longer used as such, but existing spaces are, for example, converted into panel rooms, meeting rooms, or similar, and are furnished and decorated accordingly, the situation is the same as when an office becomes a lounge or a store becomes a party venue. Such a project is therefore newly subject to approval.
Reporting requirement	In this context, a reminder is issued regarding the notification obligation under Art. 40a para. 2 KRVO. It is recommended to report all changes of use. The decision on whether a permit is required lies with the building authority. In case of doubt, an application should be submitted directly (the submission deadline, in the case of a permit requirement, is only met by an actual application, not by a mere notification).
Building permit required for advertising near venue-front windows	Any advertising with external visibility is generally subject to approval. Previously, temporary WEF projects, a general rule applied that advertising visible through shop windows inside the premises was no longer considered to have external effect once it was set back at least 1.50 m from the window. In recent years, it has become apparent that this rule was partially being exploited, in particular to bypass the limitation of 10 m ² of digital advertising space per project. At the same time, it has been observed that the external effect is usually still present even at a distance of 1.50 m. For this reason, this general rule will no longer apply. All interior advertising that faces outward and thus creates an external effect is now subject to approval.
Deadline for submitting a WEF-application has moved forward by one month.	From now on, building applications must be submitted no later than August 15th 2026 . Due to new regulations and quality standards, the thorough review process will require more time to properly handle all applications.

Deadline for submitting the advertising-layout	The deadline for submitting the advertising-layout will remain the same, November 30th 2026 . What will however change, is that late submissions on Layouts will no longer be accepted. Non-compliance with this deadline for submitting the advertising layout will now also carry clear consequences. Those who submit the layout late, will by default, be given an unlitarea of 2 m ² . Advertising fees remain payable according to the original details provided in the building application.
No more planning permission for accredited media companies	Until now, accredited media representatives have been permitted to carry out purely journalistic activities even in projects with temporary permits. It is difficult to draw a clear distinction between purely journalistic activities and networking events. Furthermore, the WEF itself provides workstations for accredited media representatives. As part of the reduction in the number of building permits (quota system), the admission of accredited media representatives as end-users will therefore be discontinued.
Transmittal Letter for National Representation	From now on, all transmittal letters for national representation, must be personally signed by the ambassador accredited to Switzerland and must be written either in German or English. No grace periods will be granted for missing signatures. A project for a country that does not have a valid, signed transmittal letter on the submission deadline will be considered incomplete and denied.
Educational and research institutes must also demonstrate their non-profit status and non-commercial purpose.	Educational and research institutes are now also required, like NGOs, to demonstrate their non-profit status and their non-commercial/social purpose. For this purpose, documents similar to those requested from an NGO (statutes, annual report, financial statement) will now be required. <i>The need for additional documents is still under review.</i>
Sponsors are also considered end users.	With the introduction of the end user regulations, the topic of sponsors has become more relevant. For this reason, an explicit distinction is now made as follows (although this has already been the case to date): Any company that is provided with space inside a venue subject to approval and is granted advertising space is considered an end user entity and may only use the respective pavilion if it has already been declared and approved as part of the submitted building application. It therefore constitutes a violation of the end user rules to sell packages that include the use of premises and branding, etc. It is permitted to share a venue; however, this must be planned and submitted accordingly from the outset. This must be distinguished from pure sponsorship and the installation of a "sponsorship wall" inside the venue building, provided that the party acts solely as a sponsor and does not receive benefits or usage rights equivalent to those of a registered end user.

Height-limit set on temporary buildings	Temporary buildings are only allowed to be a maximum of two-stories high. Attics are also considered a floor.
Arkadenplatz	The Municipality has declared that from here on out, the Arkadenplatz will only be used for the usage of Food trucks.
Building rights at reduced boundary distances (belonging to the Municipality of Davos)	No building rights at reduced boundary distances, from property belonging to the Municipality of Davos, will be granted anymore. This also applies to structures that have previously benefited from such rights.
Foodtrucks	Food trucks on public property were already exempted last year from the requirement to meet the building permit submission deadline. This exemption will now also apply to food trucks on private property. However, for both private and public property, applications for food trucks must still be submitted no later than November 30th 2026 , together with an application for a temporary food service permit. <i>Der Kleine Landrat may impose various requirements, including those relating to sustainability (reusable tableware and sufficient waste bins)..</i>
More information (already) in the building permit application	From now on, information about the project management and the person responsible for fire safety will be requested already in the building permit application, rather than only in the operational concept. In addition, information about the main contractors responsible for the exterior structures and interior construction will also be required.
Only one building project, per end user	Each end user is now entitled to only one change of use or one temporary structure (previously, they were entitled to two changes of use or one temporary structure). Presence in a shared venue counts as full presence.

II. Quota System

Experience from recent years shows that the municipality receives approximately 15–20 more building applications each year than in the previous year (with an increasing trend). The attractiveness of the WEF annual meetings is also rising, which means that for WEF 2027, more than 200 applications would be expected if current trends continue.

Thanks to annual tightening of material and procedural requirements in the building permit process and logistical improvements in setup and teardown, the already very high number of projects has so far been managed just satisfactorily. At the same time, it should be noted that no snow has fallen during setup and teardown periods in recent years, though this could change at any time.

Local capacities—such as the ability to process incoming trucks and vans at checkpoints and the allocation of logistics areas on narrow streets— as well as the capacities of the permitting authorities, are heavily strained by the very high number of applications. In addition, the infrastructure (traffic and accommodation) is extremely stressed during the WEF annual meetings, with the more

than 100 presences of companies, countries, and NGOs/educational institutes in close proximity to the Congress exerting a direct impact, as each presence potentially attracts a large, and sometimes additional, audience and must be staffed and supplied multiple times per day.

The problems arising from the expected increase in projects can no longer be addressed solely through general tightening measures in the building permit process and further logistical improvements. The time has now come for the Executive Council (Kleiner Landrat) to assume its responsibility to keep temporary building projects and their associated impacts and emissions at a manageable level, by introducing a numerical cap.

Specifically, the quota system will be implemented as follows:

Topic	Details
Projects covered by the quota system	As a general rule, all temporary structures and changes of use planned within the permit area are subject to the quota. Exempted from this are temporary projects submitted by the WEF itself, as well as pure advertising projects. Storage tents and containers are counted as part of their respective main project.
What counts as a project	A project is defined as a single, connected venue (with or without an extension) that is branded externally as one project and implemented by the same applicant / event company for the same end user(s).
Overall cap	WEF 2027: Only 125 changes of use or temporary structures within the permit area will be approved. WEF 2028: As of today, a further reduction of 5% is planned. WEF 2029: Additional reductions will only be considered if it becomes apparent that the target level has not yet been reached.
Cap by logistic zone at the WEF 2027	Zone B: 24 projects (frozen) Zone C: 18 projects (frozen) Zone D: 30 projects (3 fewer than the previous year) Zone E: 36 projects (4 fewer than the previous year)
Selection process	If the cap for a zone is exceeded by applications that are submitted on time and complete, the applications/projects will be evaluated based on predefined criteria (primary selection criteria), and the available slots will be allocated to applicants/projects in order

	of their score. If multiple projects receive the same score, a second evaluation will be carried out based on so-called secondary selection criteria. If scores remain equal, a lottery will decide.
Primary selection criteria	In the first round, projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria: - Completeness and quality of the submission - Record of fines from the previous year related to the specific project - Whether the applicant is an invited end user (end users who can demonstrate that they would already be invited to the WEF receive a higher score) - Timing of submission (applications submitted before July 25 receive a higher score) The last two criteria are weighted significantly less than the first two. <i>Further details can be found in the guidelines or the TP WEF regulations.</i>
Secondary selection criteria	<i>If a second evaluation round is required due to tied scores, the following criteria will be assessed:</i> - <i>Logistical impact of the project</i> - <i>Sustainability and innovation</i> <i>Further details can be found in the guidelines or the TP WEF regulations.</i>

III. Adjustments to setup and teardown times

Phase /Time Period	Rules
Phase 2 (6.-8. Januar, + 9. Januar 2027)	From Wednesday, January 6, 2027, to Friday, January 8, 2027, work may, as before, only be carried out on projects that can manage all construction logistics on private property. The same applies exceptionally to projects that require public space outside the promenade, provided that no disruption to traffic flows is expected. As in the previous year, work may also exceptionally take place on Saturday, January 9, 2027, provided that all construction logistics can be handled on private property outside the promenade and no disruption to traffic flow or other disturbances are expected. For both cases—projects using public space outside the promenade from Wednesday to Friday, and the Saturday option—a written application must now be submitted to Pascal Capeder, Municipal Police, by October 15 (deadline for operational concept). Submission via the eBau platform is no longer possible for these options.

IV. Adjustment of rules regarding construction logistics

Topic	Details
Restriction on aerial work platforms	Unfortunately, experience over the past two years has shown that the use of electrically powered aerial work platforms has repeatedly led to technical problems. As long as the state of the technology does not allow reliable operation of electrically powered aerial work platforms, this rule, introduced two years ago, is suspended. The municipality still encourages attempts to use electric aerial work platforms, and the following rule continues to apply: Aerial work platforms that require the extension of arms/sup-ports are prohibited on public property.

V. Sanctions

Topic	Details
Repeated serious offences	Until now, the rule was that a project would no longer be approved in the following year after two serious violations related to construction regulations or legal requirements. The new measure extends this sanction so that the affected location itself will also be banned for one year.

VI. Adjustment of Fees

Topic	Details
Adjustment of Fees	The minimum fee for building permits for temporary WEF projects will be raised from CHF 300.00 to CHF 600.00.
Logistics fees	<i>The accreditation fee is now CHF 500.00 per certificate; all other charges and fees remain the same.</i>