

Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings

Catalogue of Attributes



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

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Introductory Remarks

In connection with the 2000 Population Census, the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings (RBD) was created on the basis of the Housing Census carried out at the same time. The Federal RBD includes all buildings in Switzerland used for residential purposes and the dwellings therein.¹ In addition to unambiguous and nationwide-unique building and dwelling identification numbers (EGID and EWID), the Federal RBD records the most important basic data, such as address, location details, the year of construction, the number of floors, the type of heating for the buildings, and for the dwellings, the number of rooms, the size (floor area), etc.

The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) administers the Federal RBD in close co-operation with communal construction authorities as well as with specialised bodies in the federal government, cantons and communes. The construction authorities notify the FSO of all building projects subject to construction approval (new buildings, conversions or renovations, demolitions) via the Internet, using designated interfaces or questionnaires. The survey is undertaken in coordination with FSO construction statistics, supplemented by further sources of data, such as official surveying and the Post Office.

At present the Federal RBD comprises approx. 1.7 million buildings and just under 3.8 million dwellings. Based on reports submitted by the construction authorities, approx. 17,000 newly-constructed buildings with approx. 37,000 new dwellings are registered each year and additionally about as many renovated buildings are updated.

Together with the communal and cantonal registers of residents, the Federal RBD represents an important pillar within the new concept of the Population Census and forms the basis for the future FSO building and dwelling statistics. Within their own sectors, the cantonal and communal administrations also have access to the data required for the execution of their statutory tasks. Furthermore, the federal government, the cantons and communes as well as private persons, may use Federal RBD data for research and planning purposes.

Legal basis

The administration of the Federal RBD is based on Article 10 para 3^{bis} of the Federal Act on Federal Statistics², the RBD Ordinance³ as well as the Ordinance on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys⁴.

Catalogue of Attributes of the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings

The Catalogue of Attributes provides an overview of the structure, the definitions and contents of the Federal RBD. The entities and nomenclature used in the Register as well as the individual attributes are comprehensively explained in the Catalogue.

In the course of work carried out by the group of experts studying the further development of the Federal RBD, the data model and contextual aspects of the Federal RBD were improved in various respects. Version 3 of the Catalogue of Attributes reflects not only the further development of the RBD, but, for the sake of greater clarity it has also been subjected to an editorial revision.

The Catalogue of Attributes is supplemented by various **information leaflets**, which deal with selected topics related to maintaining a register, such as terraced houses, attic rooms, conversions and renovations, etc.

¹ Buildings without residential use are also partially listed in the Federal RBD; however, under the RBD Ordinance the communalities are not under an obligation to update data on such buildings.

² Federal Statistical Act of 9th October 1992 (BStatG, SR 431.01)

³ Ordinance of 31st May 2000 on the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings (GWR-VO, SR 431.841)

⁴ Ordinance of 30th June 1993 on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys (BStatVO, SR 431.012.1)

Technical documents pertaining to the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings

The technical documents accompanying the Federal RBD describe the most important aspects of the technical implementation of the legal basis as well as the RBD Catalogue of Attributes. They are intended for use by register administrators, software producers as well as I.T. specialists from cantonal and communal construction authorities, as well as recognised RBD solutions.

Further information on the Federal RBD is available on the Internet under www.housing-stat.admin.ch. All the reference documents related to the Federal RBD may be downloaded or ordered from this address.

Suggestions, information, comments etc., regarding the Catalogue of Attributes or the Federal RBD in general, are always welcome.

For any questions and further information, please contact the Federal Statistical Office:

Section Buildings and Dwellings

Tel. 0800 866 600 / e-mail: housing-stat@bfs.admin.ch

1 Conceptual data model

"A data model is a formal device (graphical representation or language) which is used to illustrate a section of the real world in a diagram."⁵ The conceptual data model of the Federal RBD describes the basic structure in which Federal RBD data relating to buildings and dwellings are registered and administered.

The conceptual data model consists of individual objects (e.g. BUILDINGS, DWELLINGS, etc.), corresponding to which a certain number of attributes are registered and updated (e.g. "year of construction", "number of rooms", etc.). The individual objects display certain dependencies (e.g. BUILDINGS contain DWELLINGS <-> A DWELLING is located in a BUILDING). The objects (entities or indices) of the Federal RBD, as well as their dependencies, are graphically represented in *Figure 1* and may be described as follows:

Entity BUILDING

- The BUILDING is always located in a COMMUNE according to the Official List of Communes.
- The BUILDING has one or more ENTRANCES (addresses).
- The BUILDING contains one or more, or no DWELLINGS.

Each building registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified by the Federal Building Identification Number (EGID) (see Chapter 2.1, page 7ff).

Entity BUILDING ENTRANCE

- The BUILDING ENTRANCE always belongs to a BUILDING.
- The BUILDING ENTRANCE always lies in a STREET according to the street index.
- The BUILDING ENTRANCE is always located in a place with an unambiguous POSTAL CODE.

Each building entrance registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified by the combination of EGID plus the Federal Building Entrance Identification Number (EDID), (see Chapter 2.2, page 12ff).

Entity DWELLING

- The DWELLING always belongs to a BUILDING.
- The DWELLING always belongs to a BUILDING ENTRANCE.

Each dwelling registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified by the combination of EGID plus Federal dwelling identification number (EWID), (see Chapter 2.3, page 14ff).

Entity STREET

- The STREET always lies in a commune according to the Official List of Communes.
- The STREET always belongs to a place with an unambiguous POSTAL CODE.
- In the STREET there are one or more, or no, BUILDING ENTRANCES.

Each street name registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified by the combination of a Federal Street Identification Number (ESTRID) plus a suffix (ESTRSX), (see Chapter 3.1, page 16ff).

THE POSTAL CODE INDEX

- The POSTAL CODE refers to one or more, or no BUILDING ENTRANCES.
- The POSTAL CODE refers to no, one or more STREETS.

Each place registered in the Federal RBD is identified unambiguously by the (6-digit) postal code. The postal code is an external key, which is allocated by the Swiss Post Office and published in the Postal Code Index (see Chapter 3.2, page 17).

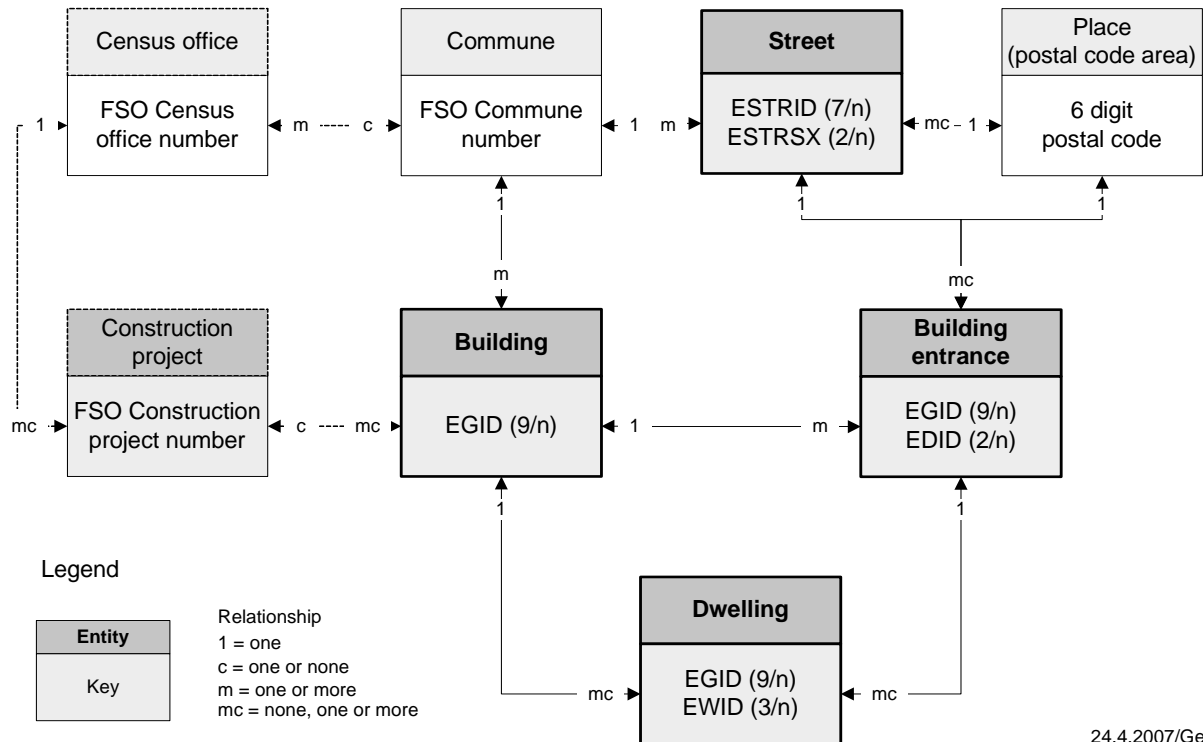
⁵ HERMES – (FSUIT) Swiss Federal Unit for Information Technology; Bern, May 1995

THE OFFICIAL LIST OF COMMUNES

- The COMMUNE comprises one or more BUILDINGS.
- The COMMUNE is subdivided into one or more STREETS.

Each commune registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously identified by the FSO commune number. The FSO commune number is an external key, which is allocated by the Federal Statistical Office and published in the Official Directory of Communes (see Chapter 3.3, page 17).

Figure 1: **Conceptual data model of the Federal RBD**



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The Federal RBD is updated in coordination with FSO construction statistics. For this reason, the complete data model of the Federal RBD contains two additional entities which can also be used for the collection of data on construction statistics. The contents of these entities are not described in this Catalogue of Attributes.

Entity CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

- The CONSTRUCTION PROJECT always belongs to a CENSUS OFFICE on construction statistics.
- The CONSTRUCTION PROJECT comprises one or more, or no, BUILDINGS.

Each building project registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously and uniquely identified by a three-part FSO project number (details on the entity CONSTRUCTION PROJECT are described in the Federal RBD technical documents).

Entity CENSUS OFFICE

- The CENSUS OFFICE belongs to no or to one COMMUNE.
- The CENSUS OFFICE comprises one or more, or no, CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

Each census office registered in the Federal RBD is unambiguously identified by an FSO census office number (details on the entity CENSUS OFFICE are described in the Federal RBD technical documents).

The entity CONTACT PERSON is foreseen as an additional object in the Federal RBD. Contact persons are owners or property management agencies that are responsible for the provision of statistical or administrative information on a building. At present the Federal RBD does not, however, contain any details of contact persons; this entity is therefore not described in this Catalogue of Attributes.

2 Description of buildings and dwellings

2.1 Description of the entity BUILDING

2.1.1 Definition of the BUILDING

Pursuant to Article 3 of the RBD Ordinance⁶, the building is defined in the Federal RBD as follows:

Buildings are permanently erected constructions, fixed to the ground, which are used for residential purposes or for purposes of work, education, culture or sport.

In the case of semi-detached, multiple and terraced houses, each building counts as an independent entity if it has its own entrance from the outside and, if between the buildings, there is a vertical dividing supporting wall reaching from the ground floor to the roof.

Combined buildings are sub-divided in line with international norms and recommendations (EUROSTAT⁷, UN etc.) in accordance with the so-called dividing-wall criterion.

The dividing-wall criterion guarantees a uniform distinction between buildings according to exclusively structural criteria. Account is to be taken of the fact that the building stock registered with the help of the dividing-wall criterion is largely, but not completely, identical with the building stock recorded according to land plot borders (official surveying) or according to building addresses (Post Office).

2.1.2 Totality of the BUILDING

Buildings for residential purposes are registered *in their totality* in the Federal RBD and updated at least once annually. They include purely residential buildings (single-family houses, multiple family dwellings), buildings mainly destined for residential purposes (e.g. residential dwellings with commercial space attached, or farmhouses, etc.) as well as buildings used mainly for purposes other than residence (e.g. administrative buildings, schoolhouses etc., including caretaker's accommodation, but also hotels, hospitals, homes, etc.). **Non-residential buildings** are only registered in the Federal RBD *according to the need for, or availability of*, the relevant information and without any claims as to completeness.

Mobile or temporary accommodation (e.g. caravans, barracks, sales stands, etc.), which do not represent buildings according to the Federal RBD, may be listed as **temporary accommodation** in the Federal RBD provided they provide accommodation in a workplace for persons registered in the communal Population Register or in the Business and Enterprise Register.




Other buildings may be registered as **special constructions** in the Federal RBD, although they may not comply with the definition of a building according to the Federal RBD (e.g. buildings without a closed building shell, such as open halls, multi-storey car parks, platform roofs, etc.), but cannot be clearly allocated to civil engineering, either, and are therefore sometimes considered as individual objects in official surveying.



In the Federal RBD the subdivision of the totality of the building is effected by means of the attribute «Building Category». Only a certain number of building and dwelling attributes foreseen in the Federal RBD are registered for non-residential buildings, temporary accommodation and special buildings.



⁶ Ordinance of 30th May 2000 on the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings (SR 431.841)

⁷ <A building is a fixed construction destined for residential or non-residential purposes, comprising one or more rooms, being covered by a roof and generally being enclosed with external walls or dividing walls. [...] >; quoted from the *Methodological Handbook for Harmonisation of Short Term Statistics*; EUROSTAT, June 1995

Table 1: Description of the totality of the building by category

Temporary accommodation (GKAT-Code 1010)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Mobile or temporary accommodation (e.g. caravans, barracks, sales stalls), which are permanently inhabited or used as workplaces.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>Caravans, wagons, houseboats, barracks, etc.</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>Sales stalls, building-site barracks, etc.</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>Permanent constructions, fixed to the ground (→ GKAT 1021-1080).</p>
Single-family houses (GKAT-Code 1021)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Single-family houses exclusively contain dwellings (purely residential buildings without subsidiary use). A single-family house counts as one single dwelling.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>Villas, chalets, weekend houses, semi-detached and terraced single-family houses, etc.</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>–</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>"Single-family houses" with a self-contained dwelling (→ GKAT 1025), "Single-family houses" with a doctor's surgery (→ GKAT 1030), agricultural buildings with accommodation (→ GKAT 1030), residential buildings with subsidiary use (→ GKAT 1030), terraced houses (→ GKAT 1025, 1030 or 1040).</p>
Multiple-family houses (GKAT-Code 1025)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Multiple-family houses exclusively contain dwellings (purely residential buildings without subsidiary use). A multiple-family house has two or more dwellings.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>Multiple-family houses without businesses, office premises etc., apartment blocks with several (holiday-) dwellings, etc.</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>–</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>Residential buildings with individual businesses, office premises, etc. (→ GKAT 1030), buildings with premises for collective households, e.g. for communal living, such as clinics, homes, boarding schools, hotels, prisons, etc. (→ GKAT 1040).</p>

Residential buildings with subsidiary use (GKAT-Code 1030)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Residential buildings with subsidiary use mainly contain dwellings, but also containing industrial, trade, commercial or agricultural premises.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>Residential buildings with dwellings and e.g. a business, a workshop or a bank on the ground floor. Residential buildings with dwellings and doctors' surgeries or office premises in the building.</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>Agricultural buildings with accommodation, holiday homes with a sports shop on the ground floor.</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>Buildings with premises for collective households or for communal living, such as clinics, homes, boarding schools, hotels, prisons, etc. (→ GKAT 1040). Buildings which mainly contain premises other than dwellings (→ GKAT 1040).</p>
Buildings with partial residential use (GKAT-Code 1040)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Buildings with partial residential use contain dwellings, but largely consist of industrial, trade, commercial or agricultural premises.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>Schoolhouses, factories, administrative buildings etc., containing caretaker's accommodation or similar</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>Buildings with premises for collective households or for communal living such as clinics, homes, boarding schools, hotels, prisons, etc.</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>Schoolhouses, factories or administrative buildings, etc. without (caretaker's) accommodation (→ GKAT 1060), commercial agricultural buildings with accommodation (→ GKAT 1030), residential buildings with individual businesses, office premises, etc. (→ GKAT 1030).</p>

Non-residential buildings (GKAT-Code 1060)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Non-residential buildings consisting exclusively of industrial, trade, commercial or agricultural premises.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>School, cultural, industrial, storage, office or administrative buildings.</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>Churches, sports halls, agricultural buildings, ancillary buildings such as garages, stalls for small animals, beehives, etc.</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>Buildings conceived as collective households or for communal living, such as homes, boarding schools, hotels, etc. (→ GKAT 1040), schoolhouses, factories or administrative buildings with (caretaker's) accommodation (→ GKAT 1040), constructions without closed building shells as well as open halls, carports, multi-storey car parks, platform roofs, etc. (→ GKAT 1080).</p>
Special constructions (GKAT-Code 1080)	
	<p>Description</p> <p>Special constructions are those not intended for the accommodation of persons, animals or objects, or, which for other reasons do not correspond to the Federal RBD definition of a building.</p> <p>Includes</p> <p>Telephone boxes, lift shafts, cisterns, open halls, carports, multi-storey car parks, platform roofs, etc.</p> <p>Also includes</p> <p>Underground constructions to the extent relevant for surveying purposes</p> <p>Excludes</p> <p>Tunnels, bridges, dams, etc. (→ civil engineering).</p>

Furthermore, the Federal RBD not only covers existing buildings, but also those planned, or, currently under construction, provided they were already reported to the FSO before completion, as well as buildings demolished since 2000.

2.1.3 Attributes of the entity BUILDING summarised

All buildings registered in the Federal RBD can be identified by a nationwide-unique and unambiguous code of a maximum of nine-digits (EGID).

The following information is registered in the Federal RBD for the purpose of the identification and localisation of the building, together with relevant data (for buildings without an exact address of the building, see under BUILDING ENTRANCE, page 12ff):

Table 2: Attributes of the entity BUILDING by building categories

Attribute	Building category				Special constructions	
	Temporary accommodation	Residential building	Other buildings with partial res. use	without res. use		
Fed. Building identification number	A	A	A	A	A	For a more detailed description of the individual attributes, please consult the German, French or Italian version of the Catalogue of Attributes.
FSO commune number	A	A	A	A	A	
Fed. Land register identification no.	C	C	C	C	C	
Land plot number	B	B	B	B	B	
incl. land register district	B ¹	B ¹	B ¹	B ¹	B ¹	
Official building number	C ¹	B ¹	B ¹	B ¹	C ¹	
Name of the building	B	C	C	C	B	
Number of building entrances	X	X	X	X	X	
E/N details	B	B	B	B	B	
Source of details	B	B	B	B	B	
Local codes 1 – 4	C	C	C	C	C	
Building status	A	A	A	A	A	
Building category	A	A	A	A	A	
Building class	---	X	C	C	C	
Year of construction	---	C	C	C	C	
Period of construction	---	B	B	C	C	
Year of renovation	---	C	C	C	C	
Period of renovation	---	C	C	C	C	
Year of demolition	---	B	B	C	C	
Surface area of building (floor area)	---	C	C	C	C	
Number of floors	---	B	B	C	---	
Number of separate rooms	---	C	C	---	---	
Number of dwellings	---	X	X	---	---	
Type of heating	---	B	B	C	---	
Power source for heating	---	B	B	C	---	
Warm water supply	---	B	B	C	---	
Power source for warm water	---	B	B	C	---	
Entity BUILDING ENTRANCE	A	A	A	A	A	
Entity DWELLING	---	B	B	---	---	

Key:
 A = Information on the relevant attribute must always be given (compulsory for the registration of the building).
 B = Information on the relevant attribute is compulsory, missing information must be supplemented.
 C = Information on the relevant attribute is optional, missing information is acceptable.
 X = Information on the relevant attribute is automatically drawn from the Federal RBD.
 --- = No information on the relevant attribute is foreseen or possible.

¹ In communes with land register districts or official building numbers; otherwise no information possible.

Most attributes are compulsory and their information is periodically updated and supplemented for all buildings registered. In contrast, certain attributes – partly as a function of the building category concerned – are optional, and only registered to the extent that the relevant information is known or available.

2.2 *Description of the entity BUILDING ENTRANCE*

2.2.1 Definition of the BUILDING ENTRANCE

In the Federal RBD the building entrance and the building address are identical objects and are defined as follows:

Under building entrance we understand the access to a building from the outside. The relationship between the building entrance and the surrounding locality (street, place) is described by means of the building address.

The building address is used as a popular location identifier of a building, which makes it possible, inter alia, to attribute natural and legal persons to individual buildings.

There is at least one building entrance for each building (see Table 2, page 11). As a rule, a building has one single entrance for the delivery of post, in exceptional cases (e.g. corner houses, terraced houses), however, a building may also have several entrances for the delivery of post for individual dwellings (e.g. for businesses, office premises, etc.).

Additional cellar or garage entrances, emergency entrances etc., which are of no importance for the address of the building, are not considered building entrances for the purposes of the Federal RBD.

Buildings in areas without individual addresses (villages, hamlets, scattered settlements, etc.), temporary accommodation, as well as ancillary buildings and special constructions, which are not intended for the accommodation of persons (e.g. garages, sheds, etc.), mostly do not have an address. For reasons of data consistency, however, at least one building entrance is also registered in the Federal RBD for these buildings (see Table 2, page 11).

The building address always refers to a building entrance. If a building entrance is allocated a new address for administrative reasons (e.g. on the introduction of streetwise house numbering), the identification number of the building entrance remains unchanged and the information on the address changes.

2.2.2 Attributes of the entity BUILDING ENTRANCE summarised

All the building entrances registered in the Federal RBD are unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified through the combination of the Federal Building Identification Number (EGID) and a maximum two-digit Entrance Identification Number (EDID).

In the Federal RBD the following information is registered for the description of the building entrance:

Table 3: Attributes of the entity BUILDING ENTRANCE by building category

Attribute	Building category				Special constructions	
	Temporary accommodation	Residential building	Other buildings with partial res. use	without res. use		
Federal building identification number	A	A	A	A	A	For a more detailed description of the individual attributes, please consult the German, French or Italian version of the Catalogue of Attributes.
Federal entrance identification number	A	A	A	A	A	
Building entrance status	A	A	A	A	A	
Street name	A	A	A	A	A	
Entrance number of the building	C ¹	B ¹	B ¹	C ¹	C ¹	
Official address code	X	X	X	X	X	
Postal code (incl. suppl. number)	A	A	A	A	A	
E/N entrance coordinates	C	C	C	C	C	

Key:

- A = Information on the attribute must always be given (compulsory for the registration of the building entrance).
- B = Information on the attribute is compulsory, missing information must be supplemented.
- C = Information of the attribute is optional, missing information is acceptable.
- X = Information on the attribute is automatically drawn from the Federal RBD.

¹ If there is a street number in accordance with the street index.

Most attributes are compulsory and the information is periodically updated and supplemented for all building entrances registered. In contrast, certain attributes – as a function of the building category concerned – are optional, and are only registered to the extent the relevant information is known or available.

2.3 Description of the entity DWELLING

2.3.1 Definition of the DWELLING

In the Federal RBD the dwelling is defined as follows:

Under dwelling we understand the totality of the rooms forming a structural unit and with a separate entrance, either from the outside or, from a common area within the building (staircase). All persons living in the same dwelling form a joint household for the purpose of statistics.

In the Federal RBD a single-family house consists of a dwelling; single-family houses with a self-contained dwelling and the like, are registered as multiple-family houses.

In the Federal RBD a *dwelling in the strict sense* has its own cooking facilities (kitchen or kitchenette). Other habitable single rooms without cooking facilities and not belonging to a dwelling are considered as separate rooms and are registered as such in the Federal RBD. Among these are, in particular, attic rooms without their own cooking facilities in multiple-family houses.

If a commune or canton so wishes, instead of recording them as separate rooms, such single rooms (WKCHE 7300) may be listed under the entity DWELLING as 1-roomed dwellings without cooking facilities. However, in such a case – as for all dwellings – information on the floor and, if necessary, on the location on the floor is to be given.

In the Federal RBD, rooms for the inmates of buildings destined as collective households, such as clinics, homes, hotels, boarding schools, prisons (GKAT 1040), are considered as separate rooms and may not be registered as 1-roomed dwellings.

2.3.2 Attributes of the entity DWELLING summarised

All the dwellings registered in the Federal RBD are unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified through the combination of the Federal Building Identification Number (EGID) and a maximum three-digit Dwelling Identification Number (EWID).

In the Federal RBD the following information is registered in order to identify and locate the dwellings as well as to obtain relevant data on them:

Table 4: Attributes of the entity DWELLING by building category

Attribute	Building category				
	Temporary accommodation	Residential building	Other buildings with partial res. use	Other buildings without res. use	
Fed. building identification number	---	A	A	---	---
Fed. dwelling identification number	---	A	A	---	---
Connection to building entrance	---	B	B	---	---
Administrative dwelling number	---	C ¹	C ¹	---	---
Floor	---	B	B	---	---
Location on the floor	---	C ²	C ²	---	---
Physical dwelling number	---	C	C	---	---
Dwelling status	---	A	A	---	---
Year of construction	---	B	B	---	---
Year of demolition	---	B	B	---	---
Number of rooms	---	B	B	---	---
Size of the dwelling (floor area)	---	B	B	---	---
Cooking facilities	---	B	B	---	---
Use of the dwelling	---	C	C	---	---

For the detailed description of the individual attributes, please consult the German, French or Italian version of the Catalogue of Attributes.

Key:
 A = Information on the attribute must always be given (compulsory for the survey of the dwelling).
 B = Information on the attribute is compulsory, missing information must be supplemented.
 C = Information on the attribute is optional, missing information is acceptable.
 --- = No information on the relevant attribute is foreseen or possible.

¹ In communes with administrative dwelling numbers; otherwise no information possible.

² Compulsory in buildings with one or more dwellings per floor and without administrative or physical dwelling number.

3 Description of the nomenclature

3.1 Description of the entity STREET

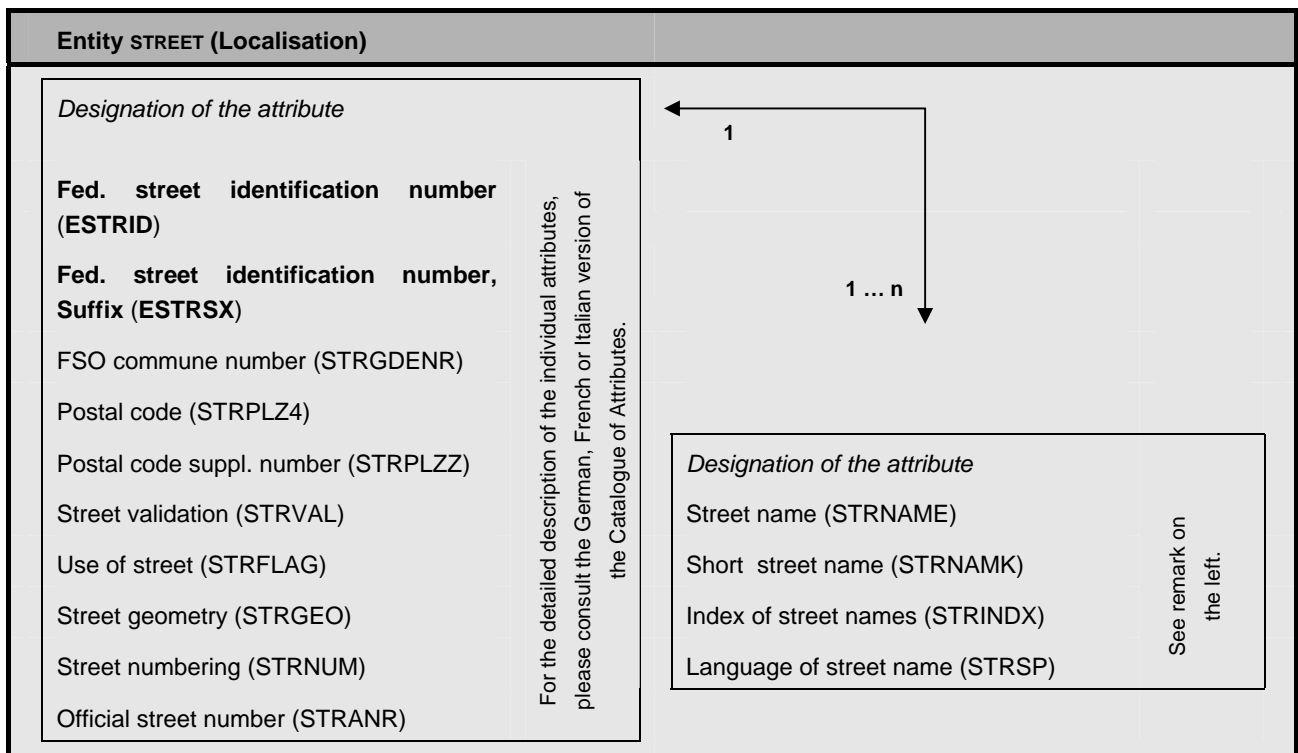
In the Federal RBD the attributes of the entity STREET conform to the Norm SN 612040⁸ on building addresses.

Remark: The term "street" in the Federal RBD is a synonym of the term "localisation" in the SNV Norm.

3.1.1 Attributes of the entity STREET summarised

The relationships of the entity STREET to the other entities in the Federal RBD are described in the conceptual data model (see Chapter 1, page 4ff). Figure 2 below shows the structure and contents of the entity STREET in the Federal RBD.

Figure 2: Structure and attributes of the entity STREET



Bold type = key attribute

All the street names used in the Federal RBD are administered in a nationwide street index. The street names available in this index are unambiguously and nationwide-uniquely identified by the combination of a seven-digit Street Identification Number (known as ESTRID) with a two-digit serial number (known as ESTRSX).

The ESTRID identifies the street name within the defined commune; the ESTRSX confirms that the street name belongs to a place in accordance with a six-digit postal code within the defined commune.

⁸ Swiss Norm SN 612040: Surveying and geoinformation – building addresses – structure, georeferencing, layout and data transfer (unofficial translation); 2004-06 edition, edited by the Swiss Association for Standardization (www.snv.ch).

3.2 The Postal Code Index

The Federal RBD defines as places all names contained in the official postal code index with a six-digit postal code for so-called domicile addresses. Postal codes are determined by the Post Office in accordance with organisational criteria and do not necessarily concur with the area of the commune.

The current Postal Code Index, as well as further information on this subject, may be obtained from the Post Office (www.post.ch/yellowbox).

The FSO updates the postal codes in the Federal RBD each quarter according to the latest version of the postal code index.

3.3 The Official List of Swiss Communes

Under Art. 6 of the Ordinance of 30th December 1970 (as per 16th February 1999) on the Names of Places, Communes and Stations (SR 510.625), the Official List of Swiss Communes, compiled and updated by the Federal Department of Home Affairs, is binding for the spelling of commune names in official communications of the federal administration, as well as in all federal government publications. The Federal Statistical Office maintains this official List and adopts therein all changes (e.g. commune fusions and divisions, changes of name, etc.) published in the Federal Gazette by the Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying (Swisstopo).

The Official List of Communes, as well as further information on this subject, may be obtained from the FSO.

The FSO updates the Official List of Communes in the Federal RBD once a year as per communal records dated 1st January.

FSO Publications

The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) is the central and official purveyor of statistical information to the Swiss Government. It is officially mandated to supply this information to a wide range of users.

This statistical data is organized and disseminated on the basis of a subject-matter classification (see inside coverpage).

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The Federal Statistical Office (FSO) maintains the Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings (RBD) in close collaboration with the communal construction authorities, as well as with specialists from the federal, cantonal and communal governments.

Together with the communal and cantonal population registers, the RBD is an important pillar of the new population census and forms the basis for future building and dwelling statistics of the FSO. Other administrative agencies of the cantons and communes also have access to the data in their relevant areas for the execution of their legal obligations.

The Catalogue of Attributes provides an overview of the structure, the definitions and the contents of the RBD. The individual entities and nomenclatures of the register are presented therein.

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