

eGovernment portal FTA SuisseTax

Electronic requests for the refund of withholding tax (form 25)

User manual

Welcome to the eGovernment portal FTA SuisseTax.

This user manual will support you in your use of the withholding tax application on the FTA SuisseTax portal. The eGovernment Service Desk team will be glad to assist you should you have any questions or suggestions.



Version of February 17, 2016

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1. Introduction

Our aim is to make the submission of requests for the refund of withholding tax as easy as possible for our tax partners. The best way to achieve this is via our electronic FTA SuisseTax portal, which offers you the following functions:

- Electronic submission of refund requests (form 25)
- Case overview of the pending and completed requests submitted via the portal
- Electronic user administration

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2. Two ways to request a withholding tax refund electronically (form 25)

In order to submit form 25 via FTA SuisseTax and carry out other transactions for a recipient entitled to a refund (company), authorisation is required for data protection reasons.

There are two ways to obtain authorisation depending on the following scenarios:

- 1. The company concerned has never used the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application but now wishes to submit form 25 electronically:
 - Sign in to the system (see <u>chapter 3.2</u>) or create a personal user account beforehand if you do
 not already have one (function "Register user" on the login page; see <u>chapter 3.1</u>).
 - For the first-ever use of FTA SuisseTax, authorisation must be granted by the signatory/signatories concerned for each company (recipient entitled to a refund) for data protection reasons.
 - If you are carrying out several mandates (e.g. as a fiduciary), you can request the corresponding authorisations from your (own) user profile.
 - Once you have requested authorisation online in the "Activation" domain with just a few clicks (see <u>chapter 4.1</u>), the FTA will send a hard copy of the form directly to the headquarters of the recipient entitled to a refund (company).
 - The signed authorisation must then be sent back to the Federal Tax Administration. We will quickly check and process the authorisation and send an e-mail notifying you of activation.
- 2. The company concerned already uses the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application and submits form 25 electronically:
 - In this scenario, the company already has a superuser for the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application, who is able to "invite" new users for the company concerned fully electronically (see <u>chapter 4.2</u>).
 - Please contact the superuser to be invited. This is by far the easiest and quickest way for you to manage withholding tax refund requests for the company electronically. As soon as the superuser has invited you, you will find this invitation under the menu heading "Pending invitations".
 - If this is not possible (for instance because the superuser has left the company), an application for new superuser authorisation can be submitted on paper, which accordingly requires more time. For this, please proceed as described under point 1.

You can find further information on the above topic in chapter 4.

3. Personal user profile in FTA SuisseTax

Every FTA SuisseTax user needs a personal user profile as the basis for all other processes. An e-mail address and a mobile phone or an SMS-enabled landline telephone are required for signing in.

3.1 Setting up a personal user profile

If you do not already have a personal user profile, please proceed as follows:

- Select the link: https://www.gate.estv.admin.ch/suissetax/vst
- Click on "Register user" and go through the registration process.
- **Tip**: The system will propose a user ID. If you would like to have a different user ID, you can change it. Please note that the user ID can only be changed during the registration process. Once this process has been completed, it is no longer possible to change the user ID.

Please note that you can create only one personal user profile per e-mail address.

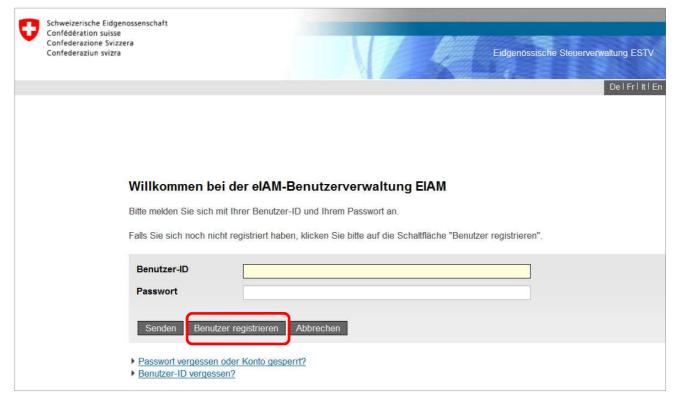


Figure 1: Register user

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3.2 Signing in to the system

If you already have a personal user profile, you can sign in to the system at https://www.gate.estv.admin.ch/suissetax/vst.

You have a user account, but you cannot remember your user ID or password. You can quickly obtain this information again by using the functions "Password forgotten or account locked?" or "Forgot your user ID?".

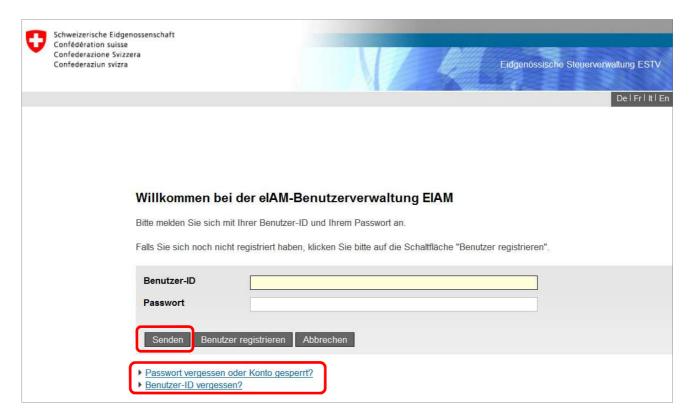


Figure 2: System sign-in

It can happen that you receive an error message after entering your user ID and password, i.e. FTA SuisseTax does not open.

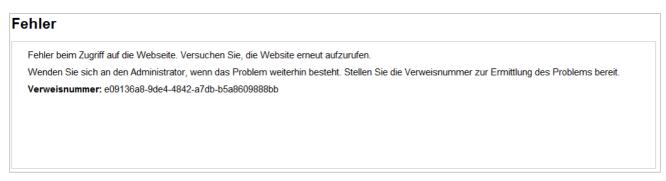


Figure 3: Possible error message following an attempt to sign in

In this case, you should proceed as follows:

- 1. Close all browser windows.
- 2. Launch the browser again.
- 3. Delete browsing history (cache).
- 4. Try to sign in to FTA SuisseTax again (https://www.gate.estv.admin.ch/suissetax/vst).

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3.3 Editing your personal user profile

To edit your personal user profile, select the user profile function in the top right-hand corner of the screen.

You can change your personal details such as first name, last name, telephone number, e-mail address and password at any time.

You cannot change your user ID due to a system constraint (see tip in chapter 3.1).



Figure 4: Changing the user profile

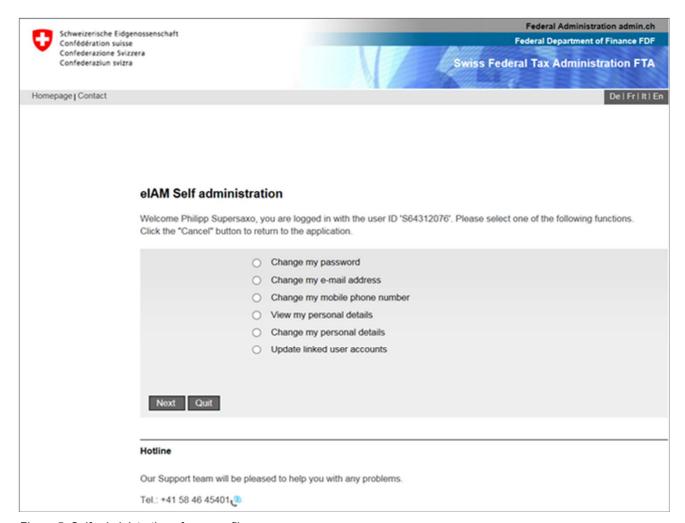


Figure 5: Self-administration of user profile

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3.4 Changing the language

When signing in, the system sets the language based on the language set for the browser. To change the language for the current session, click on the language settings symbol in the top right-hand corner of the screen.

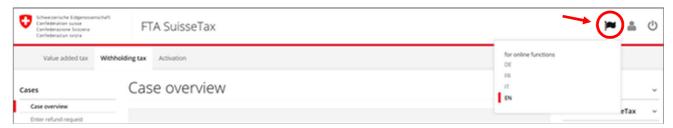


Figure 6: Language selection

In relation to language selection, please also note the following:

- E-mails: The language used in the e-mails generated by FTA SuisseTax is set based on the language settings in the user profile. These can be changed in the user profile, where necessary (see chapter 3.3).
- Refund request PDFs: The language used is the language assigned to the company in the FTA application.

3.5 Signing out of the system

You can sign out of the system by clicking on the sign-out symbol in the top right-hand corner of the screen.



Figure 7: Sign-out

3.6 Withdrawal from FTA SuisseTax

Should a recipient entitled to a refund no longer wish to use the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application and want to return to submitting hard copies of refund requests, notification of termination must be sent by post to the following address:

Federal Tax Administration eGovernment Service Desk Schwarztorstrasse 50 3003 Bern

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4. Authorisation

If you would like to submit form 25 and carry out other transactions for a recipient entitled to a refund (legal entity) via FTA SuisseTax, you need to obtain authorisation from the signatory/signatories concerned for data protection reasons.

How do you obtain authorisation?

There are two possible scenarios:

- If the recipient entitled to a refund has never used the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application, they must request authorisation (see <u>chapter 4.1</u>).
- If the recipient entitled to a refund already uses the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application, they
 must contact the superuser (see <u>chapter 4.2</u>).

4.1 Requesting new authorisation

You can fill in a request for authorisation online in the "Activation" area in three easy steps and send it electronically to the Federal Tax Administration.

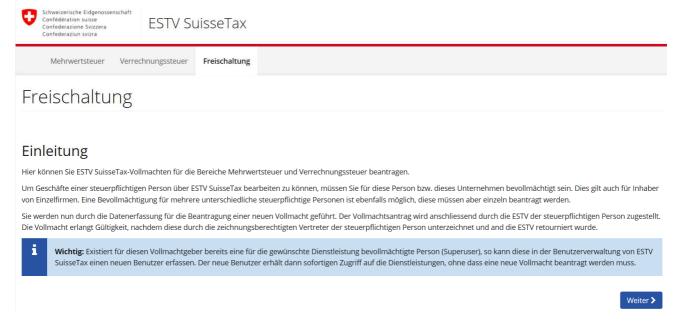


Figure 8: Activation - introduction

In **step 1**, check that your personal details are correct and select the tax type.

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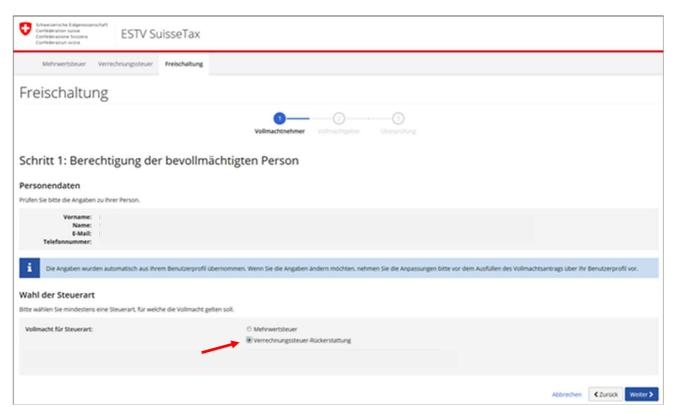


Figure 9: Activation step 1 – personal details and selection of tax type

In **step 2**, search for the recipient entitled to a refund, for whom the authorisation should be valid, using their name or UID. Select the corresponding company from the search results.

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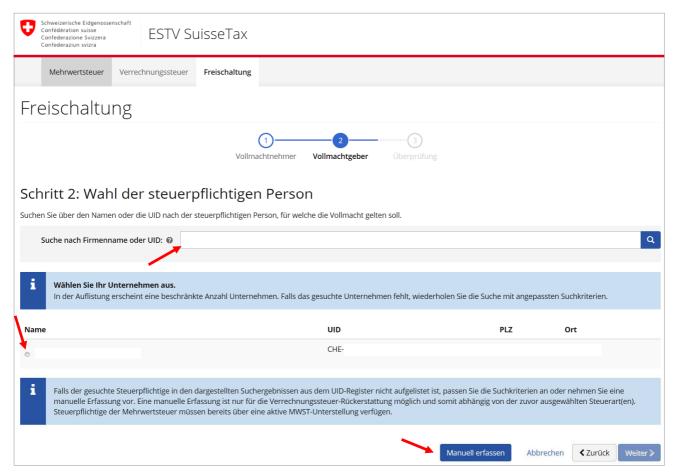


Figure 10: Activation step 2 - search for company

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If the company does not appear in the search results, you can enter its details manually.

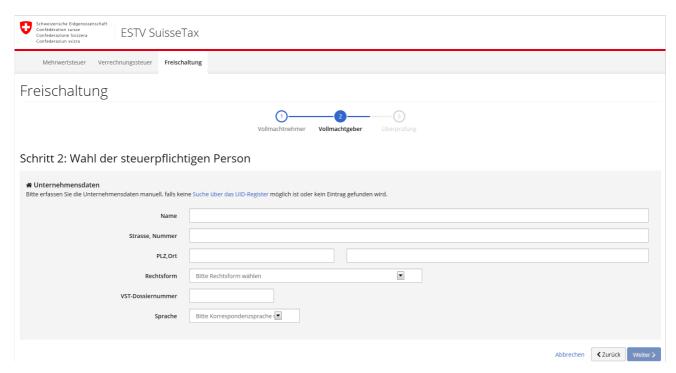


Figure 11: Activation step 2 - manual entry

In step 3, you can check the details entered and then submit the authorisation request electronically.

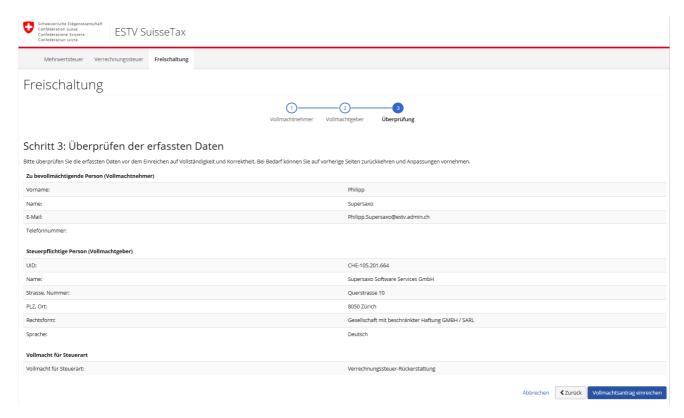


Figure 12: Activation step 3 - checking the details entered

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We will check your authorisation request and then send the form directly to the headquarters of the company concerned.

As soon as we receive the signed authorisation from the authorising company, and once we have checked and processed it, we will send an e-mail notifying you of the activation.

Even if a company already uses FTA SuisseTax, it may become necessary to submit a hard copy of a new authorisation request. This is required, for instance, in cases where the previous superuser has left the company and a new one must be activated.

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4.2 Contacting the superuser

If a recipient entitled to a refund already uses the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application and submits form 25 electronically, then they already have what is called a superuser for this application. The superuser can electronically "invite" new users for the relevant recipient entitled to a refund.

Please contact the superuser to be invited. This is by far the easiest and quickest way for you to electronically manage withholding tax refund requests for the recipient entitled to a refund. As soon as the superuser has invited you, you will find this invitation under the menu heading "Pending invitations".

If this is not possible, for instance because the superuser has left the company, a request for new superuser authorisation can be submitted on paper, as described in <u>chapter 4.1</u>.

We have described in <u>chapter 5.1</u> how a superuser can invite another user.

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5. Administration of user rights

5.1 Administration of rights by the superuser

In order to manage (create, edit, delete) the users for a recipient entitled to a refund, you must have the same rights as a superuser. To access the user administration, select the "manage users" heading in the vertical menu.

To cover the various needs of our tax partners, the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application supports the following authorisation types:

- **Submitter**: The submitter can fill in withholding tax refund requests and submit them electronically.

 → This role is always assigned electronically by the superuser in the user administration.
- **Superuser**: The superuser has the same rights as the submitter, but is also in charge of the user administration (creating, amending and deleting user rights fully electronically).
 - → This role is either assigned electronically by an existing superuser in the user administration or through a signatory's granting of authorisation (For more on activation, see <u>chapter 4.1</u>).

As a superuser, you can invite other users to act for a company (recipient entitled to a refund) in the FTA SuisseTax withholding tax application. In this context, the e-mail address is the decisive criterion for the assignment of users. Therefore, always make sure that you use the correct e-mail address.

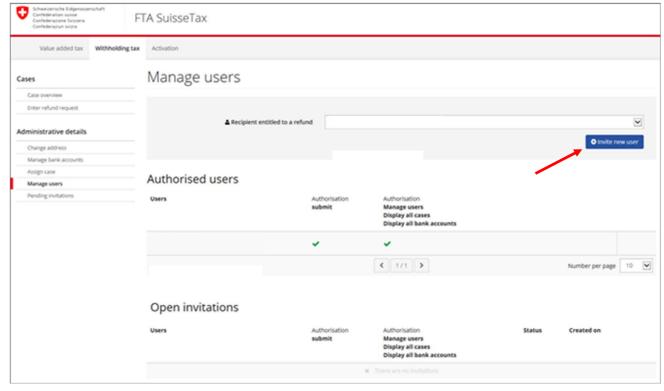


Figure 13: User administration (overview)

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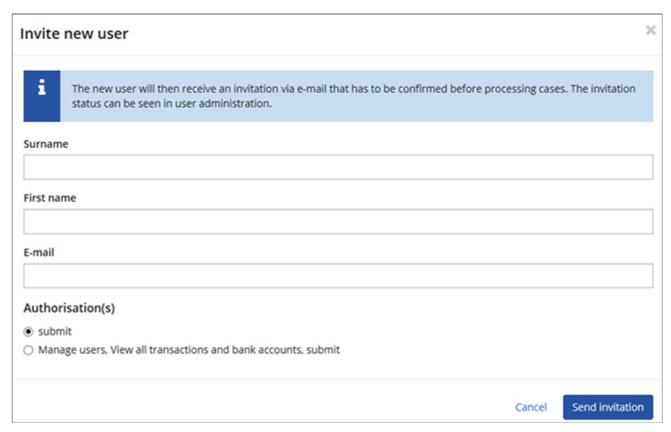


Figure 14: Superuser's invitation to a user

The superuser can see the status of the invitation under "Open invitations" in the user administration.

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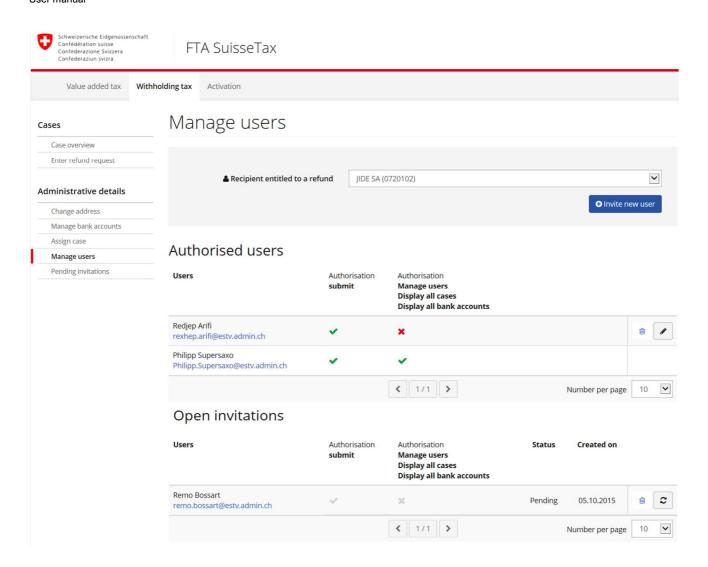


Figure 15: Status of open invitations

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5.2 Accepting the invitation

If a superuser invites another person to act for a recipient entitled to a refund, the person invited receives an e-mail.

From: no-reply@estv.admin.ch [mailto: no-reply@estv.admin.ch]			
Sent: Monday, 5 October 2015 16:48			
To:			
Subject: FTA SuisseTax: Invitation to submit requests for the refund of withholding tax online			
Dear,			
You were invited by to carry out activities in the FTA SuisseTax application for the online submission of requests for the refund of withholding tax:			

Profile: authorised activity of the intended profile: "Submitter":

- Submit
- View the cases you have created
- Manage the bank accounts you have created

If you agree to the new profile, you can confirm this by following this link: Pending invitations

The recipient entitled to a refund:

Name: xxx Dossier no.: xxx UID: xxx

This is an automatically generated e-mail. If you have queries or have received this e-mail in error, please contact the Service Desk of the Federal Tax Administration (FTA):

Withholding Tax Service Desk:

E-mail: <u>servicedesk_voe@estv.admin.ch</u>

Tel.: +41 (0)58 462 91 21 Withholding Tax Check:

E-mail: pruefung_vst@estv.admin.ch

Yours sincerely,

Your Service Desk Team

Figure 16: Invitation e-mail

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5.2.1 Person invited is already registered in the FTA SuisseTax portal

If the person invited is already registered in the FTA SuisseTax portal, they can sign in to FTA SuisseTax and will be notified of the invitation under "Case overview".

The person invited must accept the invitation under "Pending invitations".

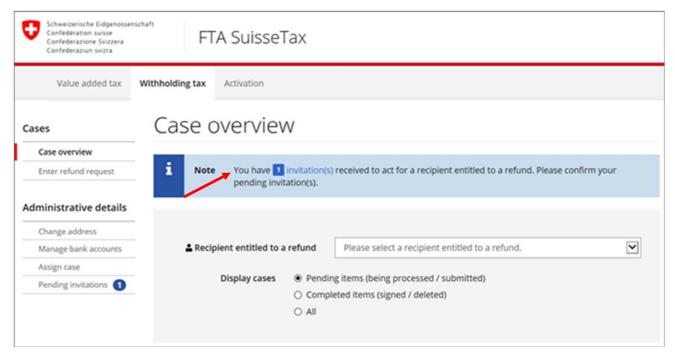


Figure 17: Invitation displayed in "Case overview"

The authorisation is not activated until the person invited accepts it.

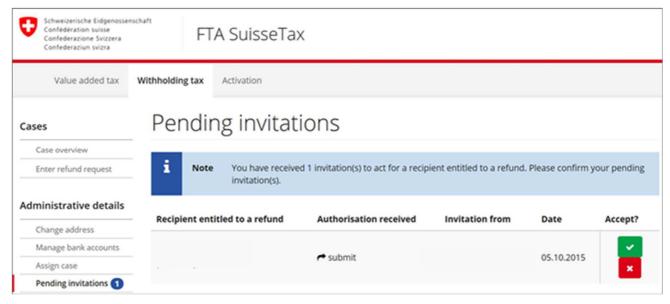


Figure 18: Option to accept or reject the invitation

5.2.2 Person invited has never used FTA SuisseTax

If the person invited has not been registered in the FTA SuisseTax portal, they can register in the portal, as described in <u>chapter 3.1</u>, then sign in and accept the invitation (see <u>chapter 5.2.1</u>).

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6. Managing cases

6.1 Case overview

The requests of the selected recipient entitled to a refund which are pending and completed in FTA SuisseTax can be viewed in the case overview.

There are different options or actions to choose from depending on the status of the case in question.

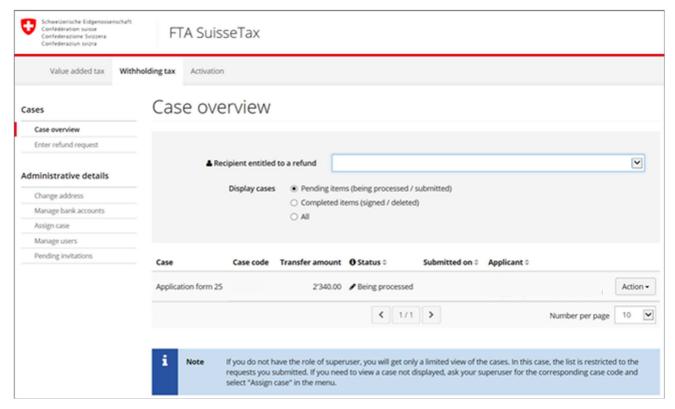


Figure 19: Case overview

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6.2 Entering a request for the refund of withholding tax

You can enter and electronically submit a withholding tax refund request (form 25) in five steps.

You have to decide beforehand whether you would like to enter a new request or use an existing refund request (e.g. from the previous year).



Figure 20: Options for entering a refund request

Step 1: Recipient entitled to a refund

You may only enter and submit withholding tax refund requests electronically for authorised companies. To do this, firstly select "Enter refund request" and the recipient entitled to a refund.

Only the recipients entitled to a refund for whom you have received authorisation will appear in the drop-down menu.

If you cannot select a recipient entitled to a refund or if it is not displayed, then you do not have authorisation to submit a refund request for this legal entity. Chapters 2 and 4 describe how to request this authorisation.

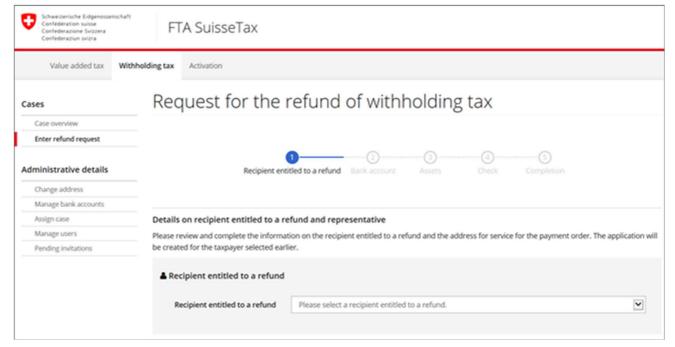


Figure 21: Select recipient entitled to a refund

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Once you have selected the recipient entitled to a refund, the recipient's details (name, address) will be displayed. You have to fill in the fields "Address for service for payment order" and "Queries to" and possibly change the date of business year-end.

Schweizerische Eidgenosse Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra	nschaft	A SuisseTax					
Value added tax	Withholding tax	Activation					
Cases	Req	uest for the	refund of withholding tax				
Case overview							
Enter refund request							
Administrative details		Recipient entitled to a refund Bank account Assets Check Completion					
Change address							
Manage bank accounts							
Assign case	Details o	Details on recipient entitled to a refund and representative					
Manage users							
Pending invitations							
Recipient entitled to a refund			d				
	Red	cipient entitled to a refund	▼				
		Surname	FTA dossier number				
		Address	UID				
		Additional line					
		Postcode, City/town					
	≈ Add	Iress for service for paym Surname Address Additional line Postcode, City/town	nent order				
	 Que	eries to					
		Surname					
		E-mail					
		Linuii					
		Telephone no.	Telephone no.				
		Refund period At the earliest, a request can be made after the end of the calendar or business year in which the taxable item became due (Art. 29 para. 2 of the WTA). Taxable item claims can be asserted retroactively for a maximum of three years from the end of the calendar or business year.					
	ī	Date of business year-end	● 31.12. ○ Other date				
	∢ Cance	el	Reset form Save Next >				

Figure 22: Enter additional details

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Step 2: Bank accounts

Here you can either select an existing bank account of the recipient entitled to a refund or enter a new bank account.

We guide you through the steps for entering a new bank account below.

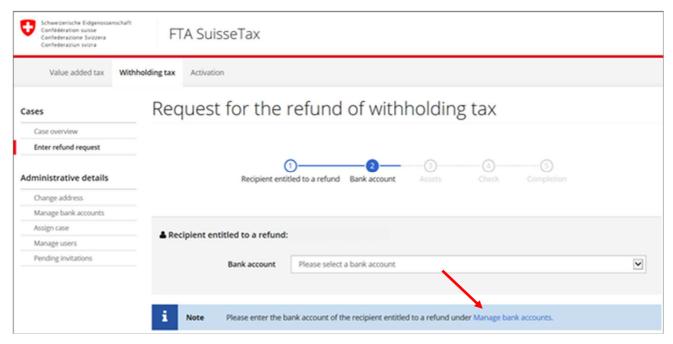


Figure 23: Enter a new bank account

Go to the page "Manage bank accounts". Here you can enter a new bank account.

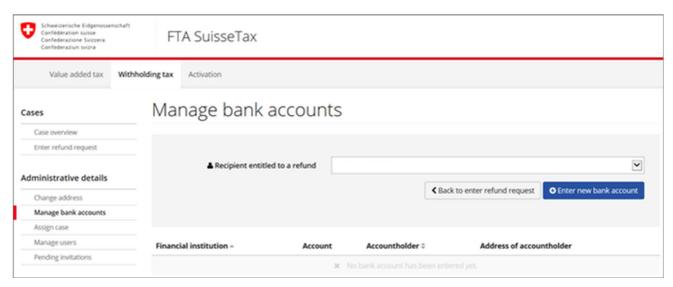


Figure 24: Manage bank accounts

You can enter the required information on the financial institution and account holder in the newly opened window. You can accept the new bank account or enter another bank account for the same recipient entitled to a refund.

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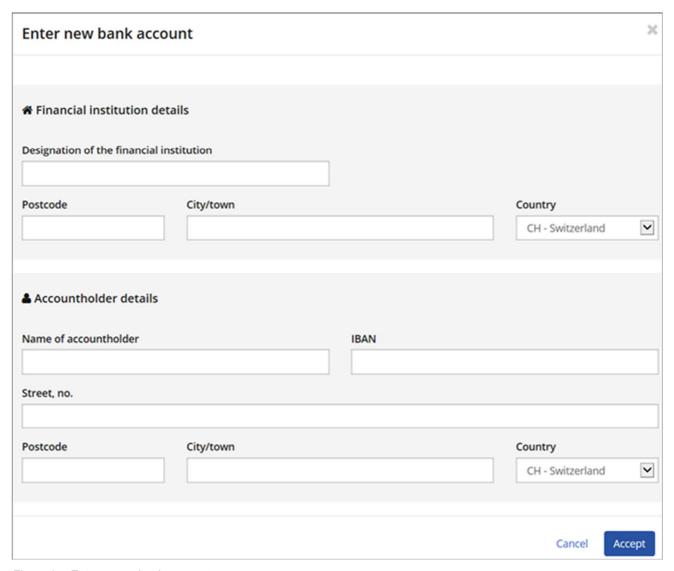


Figure 25: Enter a new bank account

Once you have accepted the data entered, the bank account will be displayed under "Manage bank accounts".

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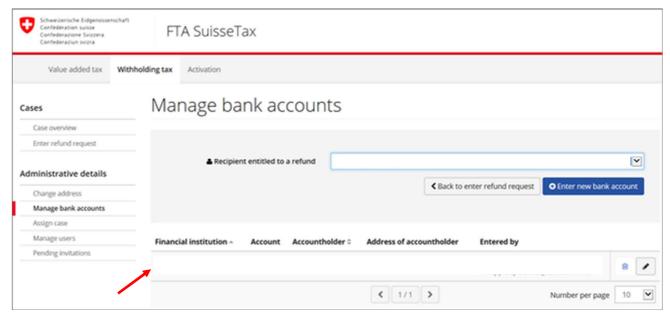


Figure 26: List of bank accounts entered

To continue entering the refund request, select "Back to enter refund request".

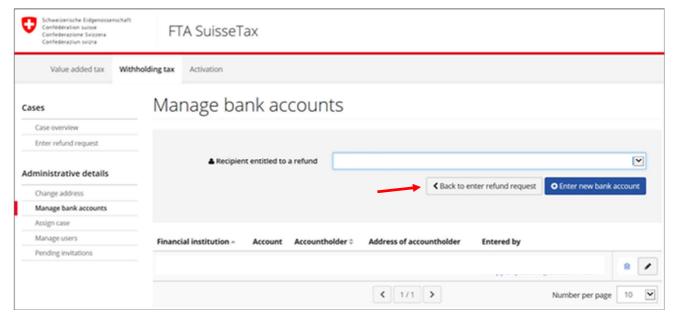


Figure 27: Back to enter refund request

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After you have selected the bank account, all of the details on the financial institution and the account holder will be displayed.

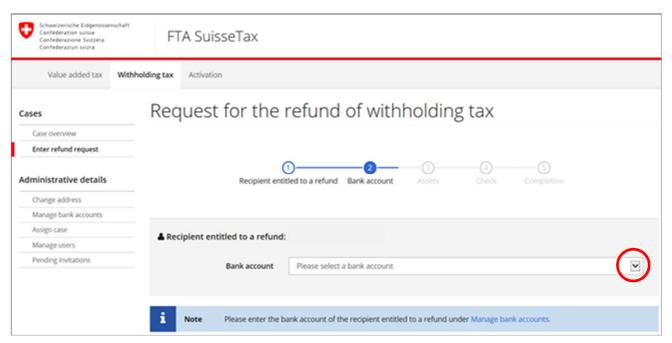


Figure 28: Select a bank account

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You can also enter a message for the beneficiary and can then continue to the next step of the refund request by clicking on "Next".

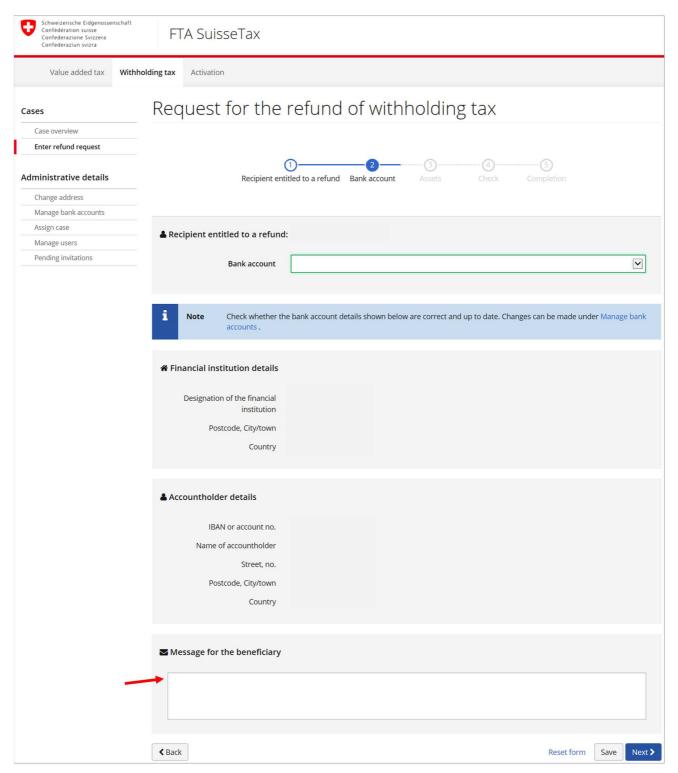


Figure 29: Message for bank account beneficiary

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Step 3: Assets

You may choose between the following two input types for entering assets:

- Enter assets individually
- Use own asset list (e.g. tax statement from your bank)

We explain below how to enter assets individually.

Select the type of asset that you would like to enter (account, share, bond, investment fund, etc.).

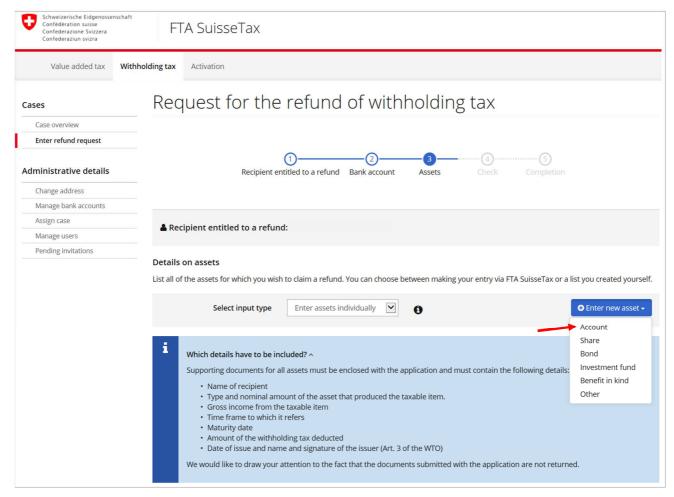


Figure 30: Select the input type and the type of asset

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Enter the required details and upload the account document as a PDF file.

Click on "Accept and enter more" if you want to enter another account.

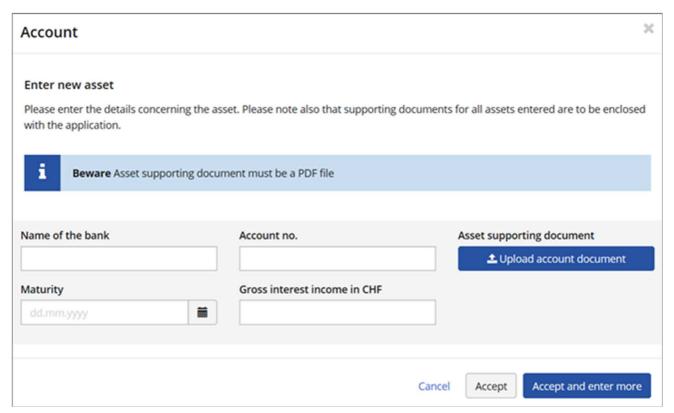


Figure 31: Enter a new asset - account

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You can enter more assets or complete the entry by clicking on "Next".

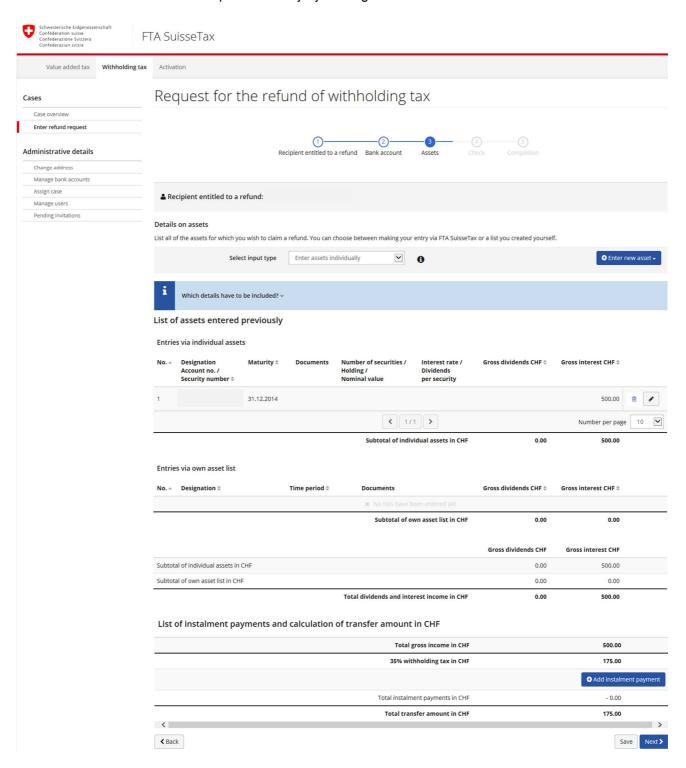


Figure 32: Assets entered

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Step 4: Check

You can check in this overview whether the information entered for the recipient entitled to a refund, for the address for service, bank account, contact details and assets entered is correct.

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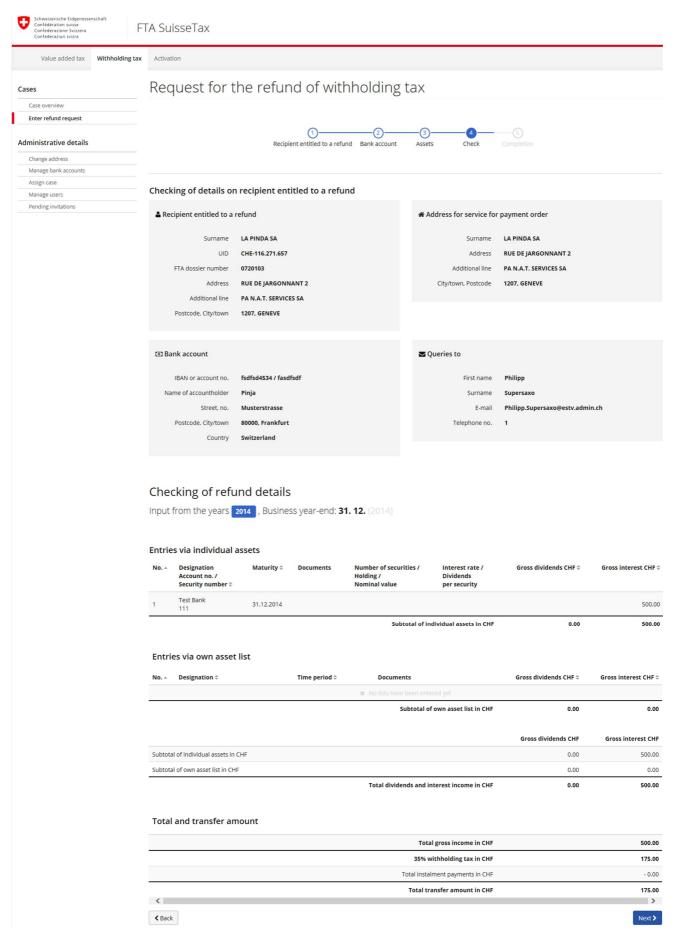


Figure 33: Check

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Step 5: Completion

The electronic entry of data is now completed and you must print the form 25 signature sheet, sign it and submit it to the Federal Tax Administration together with the supporting documents that were not uploaded.

Please note that the form 25 sent electronically is only considered as having been submitted if the corresponding signature sheet is duly signed and delivered to the FTA **within 10 days**.

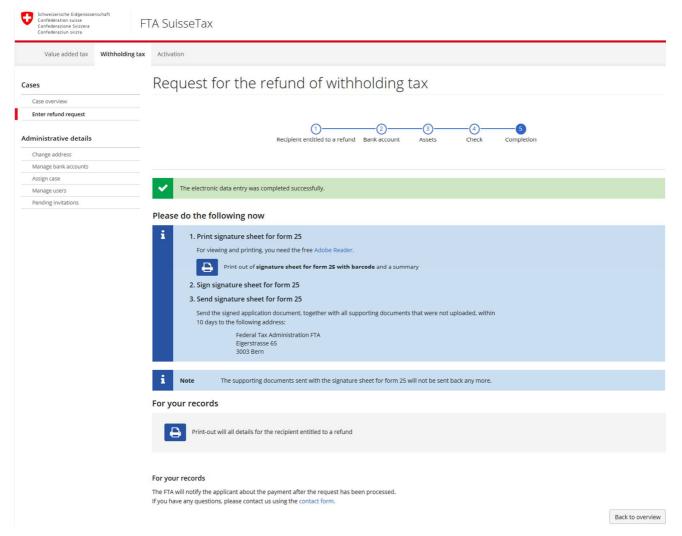


Figure 34: Completion

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7. Administrative details

7.1 Changing an address

To change the address of a recipient entitled to a refund, click on "change address" under "Administrative details" and select the recipient concerned.

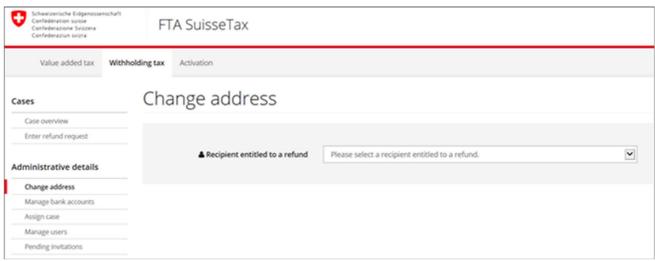


Figure 35: Change address (1)

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You can change the address, set a date of validity and save the changes.

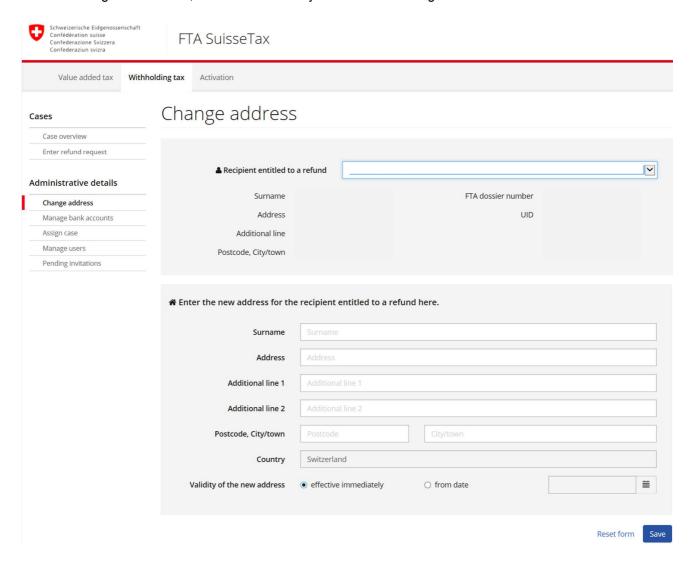


Figure 36: Change address (2)

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7.2 Managing bank accounts

You can change or delete previously entered bank accounts and enter new bank accounts.

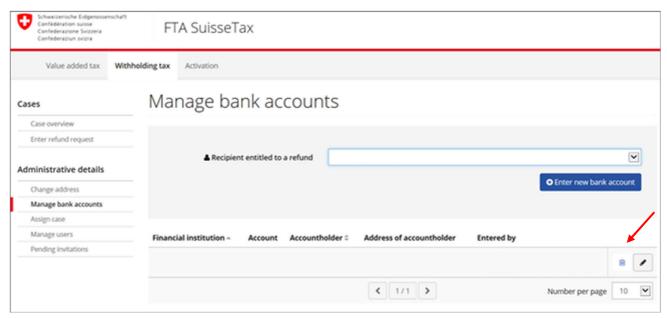


Figure 37: Manage bank accounts

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7.3 Assigning cases

If you do not have a superuser profile for a recipient entitled to a refund, you will only see the requests that you submitted in the case overview.

The assignment of another case allows you to view it at any time. Ask your superuser (or the refund request submitter) for the necessary case code (shown in the case overview) and assign the case to yourself. Assignment requires existing authorisation to act for the recipient entitled to a refund.

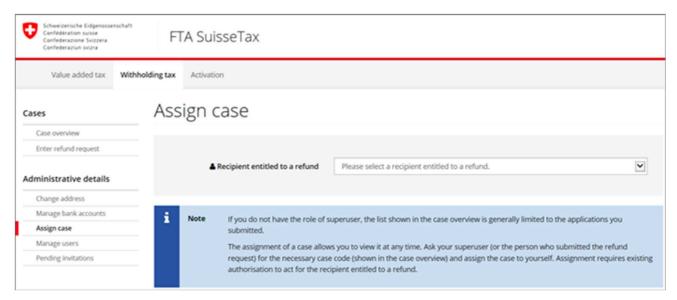


Figure 38: Assign case - selecting a recipient entitled to a refund

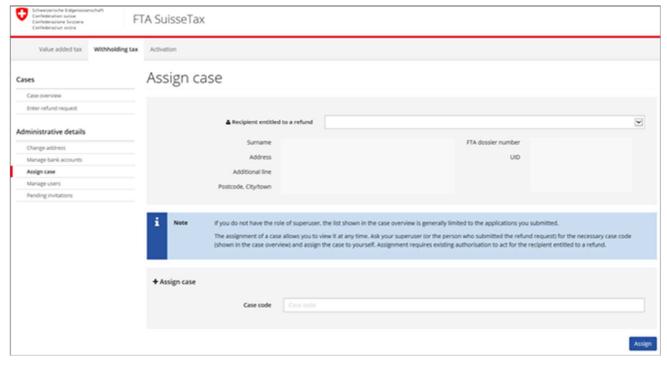


Figure 39: Assign case using the case code

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7.4 Managing users

Only a superuser can manage the user rights for a recipient entitled to a refund.

The superuser can invite other users to act for a recipient entitled to a refund or modify or delete the user rights of existing users (see chapter 5.1).

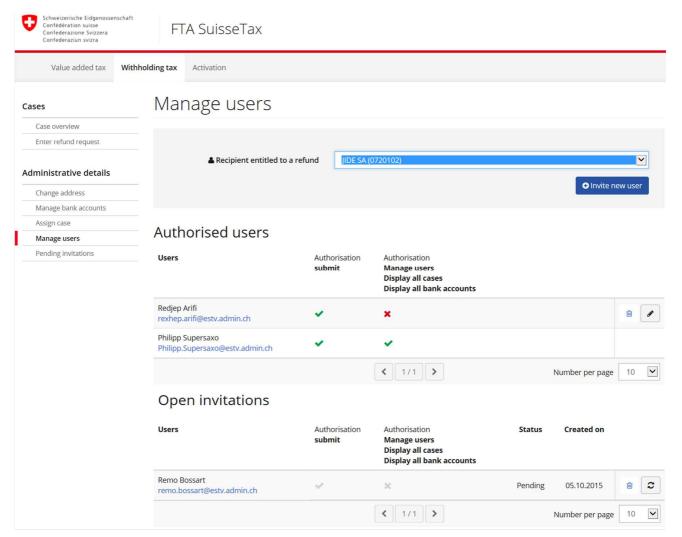


Figure 40: Manage users

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7.5 Pending invitations

When a superuser invites another existing or new user to act for a recipient entitled to a refund, the authorisation will not be activated until it has been accepted by the user invited (see chapter 5.2).

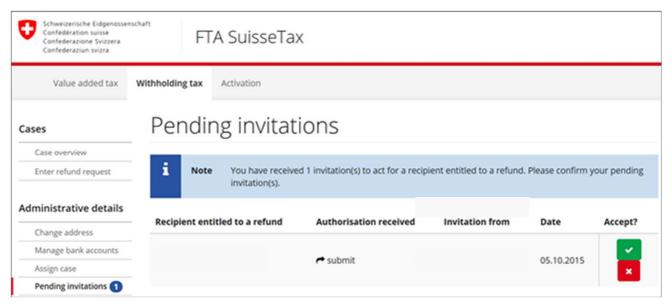


Figure 41: Pending invitations

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