

Information on the Joint Register Portal of the German Federal States

With its joint register portal of the federal states the German judicial authorities since 01.01.2007 provide access to the companies register data of all federal states under www.handelsregister.de available from any PC workstation at any time.

The purpose of the commercial registers maintained by local courts is the disclosure of material legal forms of companies. They therefore help to provide safety for business relations with the commercial traders.

The Commercial Register is divided in

I) Section A (HRA) for

- sole trader (Einzelkaufmann = e. K.)
- the general partnership (offene Handelsgesellschaft = oHG)
- the limited partnership (Kommanditgesellschaft = KG) and
- the European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG),

II) Section B (HRB) for

- the joint-stock company (Aktiengesellschaft = AG),
- the partnership limited by shares (Kommanditgesellschaft auf Aktien = KGaA),
- the limited liability company (Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung = GmbH),
- the Societas Europaea (SE),
- the mutual insurance company (Versicherungsverein auf Gegenseitigkeit = VVaG) and
- the mutual pension funds (Pensionsfondsverein auf Gegenseitigkeit = PVaG).

In addition to the commercial register data, data from the cooperatives and partnerships registers as well as associations register data are provided as well.

You can search for individual firms specifically, even if you have no registration number at hand. The content of the register is made available in various forms as PDF file and can be saved and printed as a hard copy.

The options provided are:

- the current hard copy printout with an overview of all currently valid records,
- the chronological hard copy printout with all data provided since the register has been transferred to its electronic form,

- the historic hard copy printout with all data that has been valid until the register had been transferred to its electronic form, and
- the structured register content as XML file with data of the current and the chronological hard copy printouts to be used in an automatic data processing.

Among other things, the hard copy printouts provide information on the company, its legal form, branch offices, business activities, registered office, authorised representatives and, if applicable, share capital of the company. It is always guaranteed that the data you have access to is up-to-date.

In addition, the register portal allows to retrieve documents that have been submitted electronically to the register court and belong to the so-called special volume, such as, for instance, applications to the register, lists of shareholders and articles of association from listed companies. Moreover, you can also get information on any current commercial register notification.

You can use the register portal free of charge, a registration is not required.