

Consulting Dutch laws and regulations by foreign administrative bodies



General

This leaflet gives an overview of some useful databases/websites that can be used to consult Dutch laws and regulations. These websites are publicly accessible and can also be consulted by a foreign administrative body.

Overheid.nl

On the website [overheid.nl](https://www.overheid.nl) a foreign administrative body can, for example, view the General Local Bye-Law (*Algemene plaatselijke verordening*; APV) of a border municipality. An APV can be consulted by clicking on '[Local \(municipality, province, etc.\)](#)' on the [policy & regulations page](#) of [overheid.nl](https://www.overheid.nl) under 'Legislation & regulations (*Wet & regelgeving*)'. You can then search by postcode or e.g. by the name of the municipality concerned.

On [overheid.nl](https://www.overheid.nl) you can also find much more information, such as announcements in municipal or provincial gazettes, national laws and regulations and parliamentary documents. For more information on national laws and regulations, [overheid.nl](https://www.overheid.nl) refers to the website [wetten.overheid.nl](https://www.wetten.overheid.nl). Here you can search by the name of a specific law or a term that appears in the text of the law.

Both the [overheid.nl](https://www.overheid.nl) and [wetten.overheid.nl](https://www.wetten.overheid.nl) websites are only available in Dutch.

Rechtspraak.nl

On the website [rechtspraak.nl](https://www.rechtspraak.nl) you will find more information about the proceedings before Dutch courts. Here you can find out how to start a lawsuit in the Netherlands. You can also consult jurisprudence/judgments of Dutch courts via this website. Searching in the judgments of Dutch courts can be done on the basis of a keyword, the subject, or a specific number (e.g. ECLI, LJN).

The website [rechtspraak.nl](https://www.rechtspraak.nl) is available in Dutch but partly also in English. On the English site you will only find information about the Dutch legal system. It is, for example, not possible to consult the case law in English.

Questions or more information?

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