

Information from the central commercial register 'Gewerbezentralregister' for foreign municipalities



General

The central commercial register, which is maintained by the German Federal Office of Justice as the registration authority, gathers various information on German commercial businesses.

The central commercial register is not a central register that provides entries on all commercial enterprises registered in Germany and the corresponding tradespeople.

However, the information provided here may also be of interest in the context of the fight against organized crime by foreign municipalities.

It is also possible for foreign authorities, and thus also for foreign municipalities, to apply for the provision of information. The Federal Office of Justice decides on each individual application.

Possible information

First and foremost, the central commercial register offers entries on decisions by the authorities to prohibit a commercial enterprise from continuing operations due to the unreliability or incapacity of the entrepreneur. In detail, the following entries, among others, can be found:

- The refusal or withdrawal of a required commercial license by the competent authority
- The prohibition of a commercial enterprise not requiring a permit because of unreliability or incapacity of the entrepreneur
- decisions on fines, in particular tax offences in connection with the operation of a business
- A selection of certain criminal convictions where the offence committed is related to the exercise of the relevant business activity

Administrative decisions and administrative offences can affect natural and legal persons. Criminal convictions only affect natural persons.

In the case of prohibitions of business activities, not only the person running the business may be registered, but also an authorized representative or a person entrusted with the management of the business.

Decision on the granting of the information

Information from the central commercial register is granted to foreign offices if the requesting foreign office is comparable to a German office which would also be granted access for the same purpose under German law.

The Federal Office of Justice examines the application for information from a foreign authority in particular on the basis of this requirement.

Under German law, information can thus be provided to authorities which are themselves preparing a decision such as the refusal of a permit or the prohibition of a business on the grounds of unreliability or incapacity of the business operator.



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Accordingly, information can be granted to foreign authorities with the same concern.

Formal requirements

With regard to the formal requirements, the Federal Office of Justice generally treats applications for information from the central commercial register in the same way as domestic authorities.

The request for information must be submitted in writing (or per e-mail: Poststelle@bfj.bund.de) to the Federal Office of Justice in Bonn, Referat IV 2 - Internationale Registerangelegenheiten - Division IV 2 - International Register Affairs, stating the intended purpose. No special form is to be used for the application. The standard format on the EURIEC website can be used for this purpose.

It is necessary to indicate whether information is requested about a legal entity or a natural person.

For information about a natural person it is required to provide the following information:

- Date of birth
- Name at birth, surname, first names
- Place of birth
- Nationality and if necessary different personal data.

For information about a legal entity the following information is required:

- Legal form
- Number of the entry in a public register or business number of the licensing authority
- The register court or the licensing authority
- The name (Firma) and the seat.

There is no fee for processing the application by way of administrative assistance.

Questions or more information?

Do not hesitate to contact the
EURIEC

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