

Certificates of origin (COs) in Germany

In Germany, around 1 million Certificates of Origin (COs) are issued by the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs) every year. As standard, this is done electronically using a web application provided by the IHK organization.

COs may also be issued in paper form as a fallback option, for example, in the event of a malfunction in the IT environment of the IHK or the applicant company.

The electronic creation of certificates of origin is described below:

Registration of companies in the web application: <https://euz.ihk.de/euzweb>

Companies in Germany are registered in the web application by their local Chamber according to their local jurisdiction.

This ensures that only companies for which the Chamber has the relevant information can work in the application. This prevents non-existent companies from obtaining Certificates of Origin.

Certificate of Origin application and issuance process

COs are applied for directly in the web application. Companies fill in the online form and provide information about the applicant, recipient, description of goods, and country of origin. Required supporting documents such as invoices or supplier declarations can be attached digitally. The Chamber then verifies the information and documents. If there are any queries, it will get in touch the applicant.

Once the check has been completed successfully, the Chamber issues the Certificate of Origin electronically.

COs are public documents in Germany.

Therefore, every Chamber employee must use a personal qualified electronic signature card to process the CO in order to replace the handwritten signature digitally.

The qualified electronic signature is defined in Article 3 No. 12 of Regulation (EU) No. 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation). It is a signature with a high level of security. In particular, it must be based on a qualified certificate issued by a qualified trust service provider that meets the requirements of the eIDAS Regulation and must be generated with a qualified electronic signature creation device (e.g. a signature card).

1 Absender (Name oder Firmenbezeichnung und vollständige Anschrift)		37315398	ANTRAG AUF AUSSTELLUNG
COMPANY Name Address			
2 Empfänger (Name oder Firmenbezeichnung und vollständige Anschrift oder „an Order“ und Bestimmungsland, soweit bekannt)		EUROPÄISCHE UNION ----- URSPRUNGSZEUGNIS	
Company Name Address			
Country of Destination		3 Ursprungsland (Europäische Union oder betreffendes Ursprungsland) Country of Origin	
4 Angaben über die Beförderung (Ausfüllung freigestellt)		5 Bemerkungen	
-Mode of Transport-		-Remarks-	
6 Laufende Nummer, Zeichen, Nummern, Anzahl und Art der Packstücke; Warenbezeichnung (bei unverpackten Waren die Anzahl oder „lose geschüttet“ einsetzen)		7 Menge (ausgedrückt in Roh- oder Eigengewicht oder in anderen Maßeinheiten)	
No. Packaging Description of Goods		Quantity	

The Certificate of Origin “document”

The document is available for download as a legally binding PDF with a digital Chamber signature and can also be issued in paper form if required.

The digital Certificate of Origin always contains the front page on which the stamp and signature is located and, depending on the application, it may also contain the back page and additionally uploaded attachments that supplement the description of goods in field 6. The document can be opened with common PDF readers or, in some cases, in a browser, although not all functions are available everywhere. If the PDF is opened in Adobe Acrobat Reader, the validation status of the digital signature can be verified by clicking on the Chambers stamp or the signature of the official in charge. The signature properties also provide a detailed overview of the validity of the signature. Each Certificate of Origin is archived electronically and deleted after two years.

The digital signature with the image of the Chamber stamp, the signature of the Chamber employee and the reference to the electronic origin is displayed together with a QR code that can be used to verify the authenticity of the original certificate.

8 DIE UNTERZEICHNENDE STELLE BESCHENIGT, DASS DIE OBEN BEZEICHNETEN WAREN IHREN URSPRUNG IN DEM IM FELD 3 GENANNTEN LAND HABEN <i>The undersigned authority certifies that the goods described above originate in the country shown in box 3.</i> <i>L'autorité soussignée certifie que les marchandises désignées ci-dessus sont originaires du pays figurant dans la case No. 3.</i> <i>La autoridad infraescrita certifica que las mercancías arriba mencionadas son originarias del país que figure en la casilla No. 3</i>	
	Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Koblenz  21.08.2025 Torsten Metternich
Ort und Datum der Ausstellung; Bezeichnung, Unterschrift und Stempel der zuständigen Stelle <i>Place and date of issue, name, signature and stamp of competent authority</i>	 ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATE - DIGITALLY SIGNED Verifiable until 12/2027 therefore scan QR-Code or visit: https://cert.ihk.de Verification Code: K0Y6-FM8Q-YQH9 Lieu et date de délivrance, désignation, signature et cachet de l'autorité compétente Lugar y fecha de expedición, nombre, firma y sello de la autoridad competente


Printing the Certificate of Origin

The digital Certificate of Origin (dCO) can still be printed out. It is printed on the official forms provided and requires applicants to use the print and signature client. The corresponding stamped certificates are also available for printing and downloading. The digital Certificate of Origin (dCO) can also be printed out, but not on the official forms. Printouts of the dCO are marked with a visible watermark for clear identification.

Guarantee of authenticity through the verification portal


If there is a legitimate interest, the authenticity of the certificate can be verified via the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) verification portal. In addition to the Chamber stamp and the signature of the Chamber employee, each CO has an individual verification code in field 8 (see Figure). This code can be entered together with the CO number on the website <https://cert.ihk.de> to find out whether the specified Chamber has actually issued the CO with this code and is responsible for it.

public



CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN
Verification Website

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Welcome

To verify the Certificate of Origin (CoO) you hold, please complete all the required fields: Certificate Number, verification code and country of request.

Please note: The period for verification of a CoO is two years, starting from the end of the year in which the CoO was approved.

Certificate No. *

37315398

?

Verification Code *

M718-V101-M423

?

Please let us know the country you are requesting verification from *

Kazakhstan

▼


SUBMIT

This website aims to offer Chambers and Customs Authorities the possibility to verify the authenticity of digitally signed German CoOs online.


The 79 German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, CCI (IHK) representing 3.6 million companies from industry, commerce and services, issue CoO.

The German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) is the central organisation of CCIs in Germany. All German companies registered in Germany, with the exception of handicraft business, the free professions and farms, are required by law to join a chamber.

CoOs are in Germany digitally signed by the CCIs and printed out on official forms.




Alternatively, you can also use the QR code (see previous figure) and, without having to enter any further information, you will be shown whether it is a valid CO and when and by which Chamber it was issued.




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 **VALID**

The Certificate of Origin Number 37315398 was issued on 2024-05-13 by Industrie- und Handelskammer zu Koblenz.
The Certificate of Origin was accompanied by 0 annex documents.
Date and time of request: 14.05.2024, 11:47 AM CEST

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You also have the option of viewing the content of the certificate to rule out any manipulation. And you can also contact the issuing Chamber directly by email.

Conclusion

In Germany, Certificates of Origin with correspondingly high quality and security requirements are provided to companies digitally (dCO). Their authenticity can be verified at any time in a legally secure manner by customs authorities or recipients with a legitimate interest.